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SEVCA local Good Buy stores closing their doors

BY JOE MILLIKEN
The Shopper

REGION – Due to the mounting deficits to keep both stores open – and as a result of recent board of directors meetings – Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) will be closing both its Bellows Falls and Springfield thrift store locations next month, according to interim executive director Kathleen Devlin.



The SEVCA Good Buy store in Springfield, closing on Dec. 16. PHOTO BY SHAWN TAE WEBB

Decades ago, SEVCA was originally launched with the belief that poverty need not be a permanent condition for any area individual, their main message being that people can be empowered to rise out of poverty, and that the strength of our communities be measured by the quality of life of everyone within each said community.

“While this decision was not an easy one, we believe it is a necessary move for SEVCA’s long-term growth and effectiveness,” Devlin stated in a recent SEVCA press announcement. “This change will allow SEVCA to direct more of its resources where they are needed most.”

The SEVCA stores have served the local community for over 50 years, with the Bellows Falls location on Canal Street, just off The Square, and the Spring-

field store on Main Street. Of course, many residents within the two communities are saddened and concerned over the closing, creating yet another “empty space” in the downtown areas of both towns.

The announcement came last week from Devlin, with the final closing date set for Dec. 16. Additionally, the two stores have stopped accepting donations, and are currently liquidating stock with a clearance sale.

“SEVCA is grateful to all the staff, volunteers, and thrift store donors for their many years of dedication, hard work, and commitment to providing a welcoming space to our community. We truly appreciate the contributions made to support the success of the stores over the years.”

The SEVCA agency, which has a main office based in Westminster, also

currently runs such local programs as family services and crisis intervention, early childhood development and family support through Head Start, emergency low-cost home repair and weatherization services, and multiple economic development services including micro business and individual development, tax preparation assistance, and workforce development.

SEVCA stresses their continued importance, is actively working to develop new partnerships with thrift stores throughout Windham and Windsor counties, and will continue its voucher program that will assure that community members in need will still be able to access free clothing, furniture, and housewares in their areas.

Great River Co-op considers different locations

WALPOLE, N.H. – Members of the Great River Food Co-op learned key developments in the building of their store at a special meeting on Sept. 14.

Cody Morrison, executive director of the Monadnock Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), came to emphasize MEDC’s commitment to the project and their role as a guide and partner in raising construction funds.

He explained that MEDC has revised its strategic plan, shifting from an emphasis on large-scale, “top-down” projects such as Railroad Square in Keene, to more grass-roots-driven initiatives like their recently-announced Bring It Home initiative to develop more home-based child care centers in the region.

The Great River Co-op fits squarely into that new approach, Morrison said. At the September meeting, he discussed several funding options that can be combined to build the member-owned store, and said MEDC is ready to take the lead in putting together a funding plan as it did for

the Monadnock Co-op a decade ago.

Great River Co-op’s relationship with Bensonwood remains intact, but with an added development.

Bensonwood owns property between the Hungry Diner and Pinnacleview Equipment on Route 12 in Walpole, which has been the planned site for the Co-op store. However, in analyzing the co-op’s planned site, Bensonwood realized that planning and building a single structure could complicate later plans to develop the entire eight-acre property.

As a result, the company will not proceed with the Great River Co-op project until it has a chance to analyze and lay out the infrastructure of roads and utilities for the entire parcel. Bensonwood’s current workload could delay its attention to the co-op project for the next three years.

At the September meeting, the co-op group agreed Bensonwood’s site is ideal in many ways, but also that we’re reluctant to delay progress. As a result, member-owners decided to

investigate the feasibility of other locations while maintaining a focus on Bensonwood’s property. Board Member Gary Fox has drawn up a list of weighted criteria to use to evaluate possible sites. The group approved formation of a site evaluation committee to identify and assess possible alternatives.

With the co-op revived and ready to move ahead, the volunteer leaders of the co-op are looking for others to serve on the board of directors, or one of the following committees: marketing and communications, farmer-producer engagement, and financial development. Do you have passion and some time to lend to our community-owned marketplace? It will take all of us to make the Great River Co-op a reality.

To become one of nearly 900 member-owners, and to get involved, visit www.greatriverfoodcoop.com, or email info@greatriverfoodcoop.com.

Apple Blossom returns for 2024

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield Hospital is pleased to announce that Apple Blossom will return in May of 2024. The Apple Blossom event has a long history that showcases area high school seniors and elementary children in a performance of song and dance. In 2024, the traditional features that make Apple Blossom so special will be included, along with a community dance following the final performance.

Springfield Hospital welcomes Apple Blossom Director Ashlee White of Springfield, Vt. Ashlee has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in theatre, with a concentration in set design. “I’ve been dancing and singing since I could walk and talk, and began acting when I was 12,” says Ashlee. “I love all forms of performance, but the Apple Blossom event checks all the boxes for me,” she continued. She is supported by a com-

mittee of enthusiastic individuals, some of whom include previous Apple Blossom Queens Kelly Flynn and Diane Walker, and previous directors and assistants Lisa Rushton and Tracy Austin.

An orientation for all parents and participants, including elementary school applicants, will take place on Sunday, Jan. 28, 2024, at 1 p.m., at Dressel Gymnasium at Riverside Middle School, Springfield, Vt. The Apple Blossom performances will take place on Friday, May 3, and Saturday, May 4.

Applications for both high school and elementary school participants are available at www.springfieldhospital.org/fundraising-events. Applications for seniors must be received by Dec. 19 (prior to school vacation), and for children, applications must be received by Jan. 19, 2024.

Proceeds from the per-



Apple Blossom Director Ashlee White. PHOTO PROVIDED

formances will support the Dr. E. Sherburne Lovell Health Career Award and Springfield Hospital’s 2024 Annual Giving Campaign. The support of community businesses, individuals, and families has been extraordinary during past years, and we look forward to similar participation with the return of Apple Blossom in 2024.

For more information, call Sandy Peplau at 885-7686, or visit www.springfieldhospital.org/fundraising-events.

Our Place aims to fill empty bowls

WALPOLE, N.H. – The 26th Empty Bowl event to benefit Our Place Drop-in Center’s food pantry gets underway Sunday, Nov. 19, at 5 p.m., at Alyson’s Orchard in Walpole, N.H.

Tickets are now on sale for the dinner and auction event that includes a soup supper of signature soups from local restaurants and chefs, as well as silent and live auctions, with items and services donated by local businesses and individuals.

Tickets are on sale at Village Square Booksellers in Bellows Falls, Galloway Real Estate in Walpole, and at Our Place or online through the center’s website at www.ourplacevermont.org.

With the theme of “Gather and Share,” the event begins with an auction preview and social hour. Proceeds of the dinner go towards supporting the food programs of Our Place, which include a food pantry, daily breakfasts and lunches to go, and grocery deliveries to homebound seniors.

“Ever since the pandemic lockdown, and now with the rising costs of groceries, gasoline,



Vermont Academy students create bowls for the Empty Bowls fundraiser. PHOTO PROVIDED

and other necessities, we’ve seen more families having to supplement their food budgets with visits to the pantry,” said Our Place Director Dave Billings. “This important fundraiser helps us keep meeting the needs of our neighbors who are struggling.”

“We’ve been serving 100 lunches every weekday, so we know the need is there,” said Our Place Board President Sarah Campbell. “We are so grateful for the community’s support of our efforts to fill that need.”

The oldest such event in the area, the Our Place Empty Bowl is part of an international effort that be-

gan in 1990 to raise money for food programs. What started as a local effort in a Michigan high school has grown into a worldwide program that has raised more than a million dollars to help fight hunger.

Located at 4 Island Street, the mission of Our Place is to connect people to food and each other. It serves families in the greater Rockingham and surrounding areas, as well as Walpole and North Walpole, N.H. Further information is available by contacting Our Place at 802-463-2217, emailing info@ourplacevermont.org, or on Facebook.

INDEX

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

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The deadline for all content is **Thursday, Nov. 16 at 12 p.m.** for the Nov. 22 publication.

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Happy Holiday Season



Girl Powered workshops redefine face of STEM —

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. — The River Valley Technical Center (RVTC) was proud to host one of the hundreds of Girl Powered workshops that took place around the world during the month of October, coinciding with the United Nations' International Day of the Girl on Oct. 11.

Girl Powered is a global initiative created through a partnership between the Robotics Education & Competition (REC) Foundation, and VEX Robotics, who are working to redefine the face of STEM and make robotics reflective of the diverse world we live in, and the one we want to leave behind.

Girl Powered workshops are meant to engage and inform young women and nonbinary youth about STEM, connect them with mentors, highlight examples of how women are changing the world, provide tools for success, and offer an environment where all students' confidence and abilities can flourish.

The River Valley Technical Center event featured hands-on STEM activities, robotics demonstra-



Girl Power Drones workshop.

PHOTO PROVIDED

tions, coding activities, a plasma-cutting demo, and a dynamic keynote address by Cassie MacKinnon from GreenSource Fabrication. This event was supported by RVTC instructors, RVTC administration, industry partners Fujifilm/Dimatix, Green Source Fabrication, and the Springfield Regional Development Corporation.

RVTC instructor Chris Gray said, "As the lead coach-mentor for the River Valley RADs, a competitive robotics and aerial drone club, I recognize the perseverance, teamwork, and problem-solving skills that students gain from participating in competitive robotics programs like VEX and FIRST competitions, even over the course of just one season. The Girl Powered initiative helped me reach many more young

women and nonbinary youth who might have an interest in robotics and STEM, make them feel welcome, show them they belong, and invite their creativity to take root and thrive. Robotics education and the related competitions provide a gateway to middle and high school students into lucrative and rewarding careers like advanced manufacturing and engineering. Many current engineers and designers credit robotics team involvement as one of the reasons they pursued an engineering career."

For more information about the River Valley Technical Center, our programs, and our outreach activities, go to www.rvvtc.org, or email kbrokercampbell@rvvtc.org.

Exploring healthy expressions of anger —

WESTMINSTER, Vt. — Kurn Hattin Homes for Children welcomed acclaimed author, therapist, and social worker Signe Whitson as the featured speaker at its 29th Annual Conference on Friday, Oct. 20.

The day-long conference, themed "The Angry Smile: Teaching Alternatives to Aggressive Expression of Anger," provided valuable learning experiences for area educators, counselors, parents, and community members. Participants learned to identify anger expression styles, use varied strategies to suggest alternatives to aggressive expressions of anger, identify and understand passive-aggressive behaviors, and learn skills for responding effectively to a variety of situations.

Jennifer Heidbrink, executive director of Parks

Place in Bellows Falls, Vt., said, "I enjoyed the conference and learned a lot of new techniques and skills. This is definitely a different way of looking at behavior."

Signe Whitson is a licensed social worker and a distinguished figure in the field of child and adolescent development, specializing in anger management and bullying prevention. She is a valuable resource with expertise in helping individuals navigate the complexities of emotions, particularly anger, in constructive ways. Through her written work and in-person workshops, Whitson has empowered countless individuals to understand, manage, and communicate their feelings of anger more constructively.

"We were honored to have Signe Whitson as our keynote speaker at our annual fall conference," said Sue Kessler, assistant execu-

tive director at Kurn Hattin Homes for Children. "Her deep insights and practical strategies for addressing the 'angry smile' align perfectly with our mission to equip our staff and other participants with the tools to promote healthier expressions of anger."

In addition to learning invaluable interpersonal techniques, attendees of the conference had the opportunity to develop relationships and network with other professionals who work with children in related fields. Mary Head, elementary school counselor in the Claremont, N.H., school district, said "I've made some good connections, and I'm learning from peers."

Next year will mark the 30th anniversary of the Kurn Hattin Homes Fall Conference. Details of the 2024 event will be announced early in the new year.

Bellows Falls Downtown announces Shop Local —

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. — The Bellows Falls Downtown announces Shop Local 2023. Support our local businesses by spending your dollars "downtown," and receive stamps for purchases. Collect a full card of stamps, which equals \$100, and submit the card for a chance to win one of over 50 prizes generously donated by our Bellows Falls, Grafton, Rockingham, Sax-

tons River, and Westminster businesses. Last year there was over \$475,000 spent locally from November — December.

Why shop local? For every \$1 you spend, 67 cents stays here in our towns. Remember, our business owners are the folks that keep our community vibrant and open for business. They are the ones who donate to your children's sports teams, fundraisers, and they volunteer their time in our community. Think about who you want to support before you do your holiday shopping this year.

The Shop Local kick-off begins on Friday, Nov. 17,

which is also Third Friday in Bellows Falls. Enjoy food and drink, an indoor farmers market at the Flat Iron Cooperative from 4-7 p.m., tastings at 7 Balls, open studios at 33 Bridge Street and on Canal Street, and Meet the Artist Live at the Canal Street Art Gallery from 5-8 p.m. The Village Square Booksellers will be open until 7 p.m., and the Bellows Falls Opera House movie shows at 7 p.m. Visit the Bellows Falls Downtown on Facebook for the latest news. For a list of downtown merchants and 2023 Shop Local participating businesses, visit www.bellowsfallsvt.org.

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Perkinsville Village history and nature walk

WEATHERSFIELD, Vt. – Join Weathersfield's Conservation Commission, Historical Society, and Parks and Recreation, for a history and nature walk through Perkinsville Village on Saturday, Nov. 11, at 8:30 a.m. The walk will leave from the 1879 Schoolhouse, and take hikers along the Black River to the former Perkinsville Lower Village. Becky Tucker,

author of "We Remember: Before and After the North Springfield Flood Control Project," will locate the settlement that was taken down beginning in 1957. We will have time to look at the old power dam, and the work that the Army Corps of Engineers has undertaken to restore this area after the July floods. We will be back in Perkinsville in time for the

Veterans Day Memorial Service on the Perkinsville Green. This event is rain or shine, free, and open to all. Wear bright clothing. Park at Hoisington Field (1862 VT-106, Perkinsville, Vt.). Copies of "We Remember" (book and map of houses taken) will be available for purchase. For more information, call 802-263-5584.

Concert to benefit WCA flood recovery

WESTON, Vt. – New Thought Vermont, a Weston-based nonprofit supporting community health, wellbeing, and creativity, is sponsoring a concert on Sunday, Nov. 12, at 4 p.m., at the Walker Farm Theater, to benefit continuing flood recovery expenses for the Weston Community Association (WCA). The nonprofit WCA maintains historic and natural landmarks, including the heavily damaged Weston Playhouse.

The hourlong event will feature the Castleton Quartet, an ensemble comprised of local musicians and educators. Featured will be enjoyable and diverse classical, folk, and pop selections, including the works of Cole Porter, John Williams, and Leonard Cohen. Also on the program will be the Vermont State University String Quartet, comprised of leading string players from the Castleton campus. Their presentation will include

music in the fiddle and classical traditions, as well as selections by Taylor Swift and Charlie Daniels. There will be no admission fee for the event. Donations for repairs of the Weston Playhouse are encouraged. Doors will open at 3:40 p.m. prior to the concert; reservations are not needed. For information, contact New Thought Vermont at 802-824-3810 or newthoughtvt@yahoo.com.

"Songs of Vermont" with Banjo Dan

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – "Banjo" Dan Lindner will present the next Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) program "Songs of Vermont" on Tuesday, Nov. 14, at 2 p.m., at the Nolin Murray Center, next to St. Mary's Church on Pleasant Street in Springfield.

enjoy learning for the fun of it. Anyone who would be interested in this type of program, regardless of their age, is welcome. The programs last about an hour and a half. Pre-registration is highly recommended. We can no longer take any payments onsite at the door. However, if you arrive without having registered, we will not turn you away. We will hand you a form with instructions on how to make payment after the program.



Banjo Dan Lindner will present "Songs of Vermont" at OLLI. PHOTO PROVIDED

He will perform several of his favorite songs that he has written in his 50-year career as a professional musician. He'll discuss the inspirations and stories behind these songs, which are drawn from Vermont's history, legends, places, and personalities.

The program fee is discounted for members. Non-members are welcome and encouraged to attend individual programs for a single program fee. You may view the entire semester programs by going to the website www.learn.uvm.edu/olli/springfield. Registration can be done online at this website with a credit card. You may also register over the phone, using your credit card, by calling 802-656-8407, or email noncredit@uvm.edu. You may have to wait for a return

call back. Due to the current situation of Covid, the University of Vermont expects all participants at UVM sponsored non-credit events (including OLLI) will be vaccinated. Masks are optional and welcomed. For full health and safety information, go to www.learn.uvm.edu/olli/springfield. The next program, on Tuesday, Nov. 28, will be "The Nature of Weather Patterns," presented by Mark Breen, voice of "Eye on the Sky" and senior meteorologist at the Fairbanks Museum. This will be the final program of this fall semester.

Dan has performed throughout Vermont and the Northeast, along with several overseas tours. Over that span, he has recorded some 20 albums, including those by "Banjo Dan and the Mid-nite Plowboys," as well as solo albums under his own name. Among the latter are four collections of "Banjo Dan's Songs of Vermont." All told, Dan has recorded over 100 original songs.

Sponsored by the University of Vermont, OLLI is run by local volunteer members, and is geared mainly towards seniors who are 50 years of age and over who

SEVCA executive director

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – The Board of Directors of Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) is pleased to announce that it has hired Josh Davis of Brattleboro to serve as SEVCA's executive director. Davis has led Groundworks Collaborative as their executive director for the past 11 years, guiding the creation of Groundworks from the merger of The Brattleboro Drop-in Center and Morningside

Shelter. Prior to his time at Groundworks, Davis completed a master's degree in sustainable development from The School for International Training, and worked as a Peace Corps volunteer in Namibia as well as spending time working in Japan and Kosovo. "Throughout my time at Groundworks and as a local resident, I've come to know and deeply appreciate the vital role SEVCA

plays in our community, both as a critical partner and a provider of services and programs," said Davis. "I'm thrilled to be joining a terrific team and working together to make real and lasting improvements in the lives of individuals and families across southeastern Vermont." Davis will begin at SEVCA on Jan. 1, 2024.

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Possible "The Story of Us" book cover. PHOTO PROVIDED BY RON PATCH

I think it was back in May when I wrote an article about a book I wanted to publish this March. It would be a book of other peoples' stories. I asked readers to write a couple stories for this book. I've had a good response, but I need more stories.

We all have stories. We tell stories without even thinking about it. They are part of our life. Dorothy Canfield Fisher best explained it this way: "We treasure our remembered people and doings because they are comments on human life, drawn from somebody's first-hand experience.... We know very well that these humble anecdotes would seem to people of the big world no more than pinches of dust – or perhaps single blades of grass from a meadow."

Some say they can't write. Nonsense, of course you can. If you can tell stories, you can write them down. Don't worry about grammar. I have been corrected many times when I say, "I graduated Chester High School in 1969." "No," they say. "You graduated 'from' Chester High School."

We do have our own way of speaking. I don't think it's wrong. It's who we are. Gordon Gates wrote some wonderful stories, but he couldn't spell worth a hill of beans.

Along with memories, I'm looking for those who just like to write. Maybe late at night, when you are alone, you set your thoughts to paper. I'd like to see them.

As I travel around the area doing business, I see interesting forms of yard art. Some are very creative. It's something they are compelled to do. It's in their bones. Yard art is a subject I want to include in the book. It is self-expression at its best.

Danny Clemons and I were out shrooming a while back. We saw a great sculpture of a motorcycle, made from found objects. We were in the Westminster area.

It is fantastic. I'd like to know about it.

You can write anything you like. Days gone by, how things were done, or who married who. An experience you had, or something you remember. This book is not just Chester. People from area towns are invited to submit their stories. It is "The Story of Us."

It would be great if someone wrote their memory of the Chester Carnival. Of course, I went and remember it, but not well enough to write about it. Maybe you'd like this assignment. I remember the Ferris wheel, other rides, but mostly the bouncing ball that bounced around on top of the muffin tins.

The bottoms of the muffin tins were painted different colors. There was a counter where round circles of different colors were painted. You placed a quarter on a color of your choice and watched the ball bounce around on the muffin tins, eventually resting on a colored tin. You won

when the ball landed on the color you bet on.

I remember older teenagers having their dungarees rolled up, with a pack of cigarettes rolled up under the sleeve of their t-shirt, strolling along with their steady. Someone should write this story.

The old woman

This is a short story I wrote for

the book. For many years, I maintained an antique clock for an old woman. I would get it running perfectly, here at my place. The last time I worked on the clock, I had it keeping time within three minutes in seven days.

Danny Clemons and I were working on postcards one winter day, when the old woman stopped to visit. Greetings were exchanged. I asked how the clock was doing. "It's 10 minutes slow," she says. That just didn't make sense. I knew what I had done so I asked, "How often do you wind it?" Reply: "Every Monday morning," which is the way it should be done, once every seven days. Now I'm puzzled.

I then asked, "When you wind it, do you reset it to the correct time?" "Do I have to reset the time?" she asked. Danny and I had a good laugh after she left.

This week's old saying: "He's more complex than Vitamin B."

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health news

OPINION

Springfield Hospital welcomes Audrey Dudzik, MD, FACS

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield Hospital is pleased to welcome Audrey Dudzik, MD, FACS, to the general surgery department.

Dr. Dudzik received her Bachelor of Arts in Spanish, and Bachelor of Science in Microbiology, with honors, from Michigan State University. She continued her education by receiving her Master of Science degree in basic medical sciences from Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit, Mich. Dr. Dudzik received her Doctor of Medicine from The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University in Providence, R.I. She completed her general surgery residency and internship at the



Audrey Dudzik. PHOTO PROVIDED

Memorial Mercer University Medical Center in Savannah, Ga. She is board-certified by the American Board of Surgery, and a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. She currently serves on the board and is the medical director of

the Visiting Nurses and Hospice of the southwest region. She is also a member of the Vermont chapter of the American College of Surgeons.

Dr. Dudzik was previously employed as a general surgeon at Central Vermont Medical Center in Berlin, Vt., and Rutland Regional Medical Center in Rutland, Vt. She is currently accepting new patients at Springfield General Surgery, located in the Professional Building on Level A, next to Springfield Hospital, at 29 Ridgewood Road, Springfield, Vt. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 802-885-5600.

Edgar May Masters shine

HARTFORD, Vt. – Swimmers from the Edgar May Health and Recreation Center's Masters Swim Team participated in the 14th annual Leaf Peepers Swim Meet at the Upper Valley Aquatic Center, in Hartford, Vt. The meet consisted of 140 swimmers between the ages of 21-85 years old. The Edgar May was represented by four swimmers who train at the indoor pool in Springfield: Kristen Miller (Ludlow, Vt.), Brooke Decker (Andover, Vt.), Bettina McCrady (Springfield, Vt.), and Oliver Abbott (Woodstock, Vt.). The four swimmers dominated the field in numerous events.

Miller was first in her age group, second overall female, and set a remarkable new age group meet record of 26.08 seconds in the 50 free. In the 100 free, she was first in her



Oliver Abbott, Bettina McCrady, Kristen Miller, and Brooke Decker. PHOTO PROVIDED

age group and first overall female, with an impressive time of 59.14 seconds.

Abbott secured first place in his age group with a remarkable time of 25.14 seconds in the 50 free. In the 500 free, he dominated his age group, finishing in first place with a time of six minutes and 10 seconds. He claimed another first place win in his age group in the 25 back, swimming the event in just 14 seconds. McCrady took first place in her age group in the 25 free, and set a new age group meet record with a time of 18.86 seconds.

Decker earned first place in her age group in the 25 free, and set a new age group meet record with a remarkable time of 14.61 seconds.

These exceptional performances not only reflect the swimmers' hard work and dedication, but also set the bar for excellence in their respective age groups.

For those interested in joining the Edgar May Mas-

ters Swim Team, the word "Masters" has nothing to do with your skill level or current ability in the pool, just your age. Masters Swim is for those looking to improve their fitness through the sport of swimming. Workouts will vary strokes, and throughout the week focus on speed, endurance, and technique. There are three workouts per week at the Edgar May: Monday from 6-7 a.m., Thursday from 6-7 p.m., and Saturday from 7-8 a.m. This program is led by Kristen Miller, our wellness director. She is a former Division 1 swimmer and trained U.S. Masters Swimming coach.

The next exciting opportunity to compete for Edgar May Masters swimmers will be at The GYM Turkey Day Prep Meet, which is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 19. The event will take place at the YMCA Allard Center in Goffstown, N.H.

The Edgar May Health and Recreation Center, 140 Clinton Street in Springfield, provides area residents of all ages with the opportunities and resources necessary to live an active and healthy lifestyle in a safe, clean, and supportive environment. For more information, call 802-885-2568, email info@edgarmay.org, or visit www.edgarmay.org.

North Star Vision moves to 100 River Street

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – North Star Health recently completed renovation of a second-floor area of its flagship community health center in Springfield, Vt., to make room for North Star Vision to join the lineup of health services available there.

Already a familiar and trusted provider of quality eye care for area adults, children, and families, North Star Vision (formerly Lane Eye Associates) has been part of the Springfield community for many years at its previous location just two miles down the road.

"With the recent unveiling of the North Star Health name and identity, it made sense to bring North Star Vision into our centrally located health center at 100 River Street. Eye care is a critical part of the healthcare continuum, and having it available on-site makes it that much more accessible to our residents," said Bob Flint, chair of North Star

Health's Board of Directors.

In anticipation of the move and the resulting increased visibility to the local community and health center patients, North Star Vision also expanded its ability to provide care. Earlier this year, Erik Kuntzsch, OD, MS, ABO, an optometrist and diplomate of the American Board of Optometry, joined optometrist April Harmer and her team of eye care professionals to deliver preventive vision services to people of all ages. Following the clinical guidelines of the American Optometric Association, North Star Vision recommends regular, comprehensive eye exams to promote both eye health and overall health, as well as increase the chances for early detection and treatment of eye and vision problems. Dr. Harmer and Dr. Kuntzsch are welcoming both new and established patients at



North Star Vision team celebrates after cutting the ribbon to their new 100 River Street location. PHOTO PROVIDED

the Springfield Health Center location.

Community residents met the North Star Vision team and toured the new facility at its location overlooking Comtu Falls in the historically preserved Fellows Gear Shaper building that now houses North Star Health's Springfield Health Center at an open house on Tuesday, Oct. 24.

Josh Dufresne, CEO of North Star Health, is ex-

cited about the move. "Even though vision care has been part of our full spectrum of services for a long time, I'm excited to have North Star Vision come 'home' to our River Street center. It makes it easier for our patients to get multiple healthcare needs met in a single trip to one location, and it exemplifies the North Star commitment to accessible whole-person care."

Dear Editor,

I'm writing about the proposed community garden in the demolished church footprint in Bellows Falls, on the corner of Atkinson and Church streets.

I think it's a wonderful idea. The soil contamination is a problem, not a predicament, and it is likely all the village lots have lead and other contaminants from a century of lead paint on Victorian homes.

There are many ways to address this very common problem in this country, because the U.S. was late in eliminating lead from its paint and fuel. That delay is still negatively af-

fecting our children today, as well as our gardens. However, many economical and effective methods have been used to either ameliorate the contaminants, or to bypass them. Barriers, raised beds, and growing fruiting plants where the fruits do not absorb the contaminants are the easiest methods.

As a permaculture designer and lifelong gardener on three continents, I've seen many types of gardens and situations. The most important key to a successful community garden is the community. I have only lived in Bellows Falls for two years now (this was my third Halloween), but I already see how this community has a great passion for its village and for each other. This green space is in the heart of the town, between two schools, a perfect spot to teach our children about the connection we have to Earth, water, sunshine, oxygen, and build our human and non-human relationships with those tiny soil organisms we rely on for our survival every day. Yes, the village could sell the lot and make some money, but an investment like a community garden pays us all back in both beauty and substance, as well as the invisible gift of building a stronger community regardless of its income or status. Many Bellows Falls residents do not have the space to grow a garden in their yards. This corner lot could fill that need. Bringing children and adults together to learn together, and share in the bounty they have coaxed from the Earth is a noble endeavor.

A garden is a blessing that lives forever. The beautiful stained glass window of St. Francis with his wild animals that used to overlook the villagers from that lot is now based at the BF train station. St. Francis has always been the symbol of nature's protector and healer. He might have been relocated, but his spirit remains on the corner of Atkinson and School streets.

Let's heal that lot together and make a garden of love and beauty, no?

With respect,
Pauline Schneider
Bellows Falls, Vt.

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CHURCH / COMMUNITY

obituaries

Springfield UCC begins creating gathering space



Nick Barlow, Hugh Stevens, and Nate Lewis of Skyline Landscaping. PHOTO PROVIDED

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Fifty-year-old bushes and shrubs were removed from the green space next to First Congregational Church United Church of Christ at 77 Main Street in downtown Springfield, to make way for a gathering place for all. The first phase of what will be a three-year project is completed, thanks to the HOPE Fund of the Vermont UCC Conference, many member donations, and the carefully executed removal, pruning, and trimming of trees by Skyline Landscaping LLC. We also thank our neighbors for their patience with all the noise of chain-

saws and large equipment. Next year, we hope to build a patio with pavers that will let in the rainfall, and bring in seating for rest, conversations, and a lunch break. A mid-sized flowering tree will replace the aging crabapple that was cut down. A pathway from the sidewalk will be accessible for all. The last phase will be developing gardens and plantings of native species for a sustainable landscape. All of the cost for the coming planning and development will be from grants and donations. We are a brave and hope-filled church in a brave little state.

Author Francesca Arnoldy workshop series

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Sharing from her experience as a community doula and hospice volunteer, Francesca (Gurney) Arnoldy, who graduated with Springfield High School's Class of 1999, has made normalizing the topic of death her life's work. She is an accomplished author, speaker, teacher, and provider, and will be holding two free workshops open to all in Springfield on Nov. 13 and 14 – each with a different focus, so that attending both will have double the impact.

On Monday, Nov. 13, from 1-2 p.m., Francesca will be at the Springfield Town Library for a one-hour "Intro-

duction to Death Journaling" workshop.

On Tuesday, Nov. 14, from 1-3 p.m., Francesca will be at the Springfield Area Parent Child Center Training Center in North Springfield for a two-hour "Cultivating Compassion" workshop.

Registration for both of these events is open online at www.eventbrite.com. For more information, call the Springfield Town Library at 802-885-3108, or Springfield Area Parent Child Center at 802-886-5242. To learn more about the work of Francesca Arnoldy, please visit her website at www.francescalynnarnoldy.com.

Ann McCloskey at Rockingham Library

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – For those who are drawn to memoirs, or those who wish to write their own, join memoirist Ann McCloskey on Saturday, Nov. 18, at 1 p.m., at the Rockingham Library. McCloskey will read from her book "These Dreams of You," and talk about the rewards and challenges in writing an honest and unflinching story laden with emotional content. McCloskey's discussion of her memoir writing process will inform those who are interested in better understanding the genre, and inspire those who may want to write their own stories. The author will be available to sign books for purchase.

In "These Dreams of You," McCloskey tells the story of lovingly raising a remarkable daughter, who developed mental illness and died young. McCloskey's memoir follows her pivot from years of striving to save her anorexic daughter, to ultimately support-

ing her as she lived out her life in the manner she chose as an adult. Written from the heart, McCloskey's personal narrative conveys hope and resilience as she prevails through her grief with no regrets about her parenting.

This memoir has been called sad and devastating, but also full of truth, and love, and grace. While McCloskey's story offers an unvarnished account of her challenges in raising her extraordinary daughter, it also conveys the depth of love she felt for her. Interspersed throughout the narrative are several lyrical letters written by mother to daughter since the daughter's death.

This program is free and open to the public. For more information, call 802-463-4270, email programming@rockinghamlibrary.org, or stop by the Rockingham Library at 65 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls.

ALSTEAD, N.H.

Third Congregational Church UCC, River St.
Sunday worship begins at 11 a.m., led by Pastor Maureen Adams. Communion is the first Sunday of each month. For more information, email alsteadthirdchurch@gmail.com, call 603-835-6358, or go to www.facebook.com/Third-Congregational-UCC-Church-of-Alstead-NH-120645387960916.

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St.
Services are held most Sundays at 10 a.m., in-person. Please join us. All are welcome. For more information go to Facebook @ImmanuelEppiscopalChurch or to our website www.immanuelepiscopal.org.

United Church of Bellows Falls, UCC, 8 School St.
Worship service starts at 10 a.m. every Sunday. All are welcome to attend. Following the service, there will be a time of refreshments. Many other services are offered throughout the week. If you have any questions or want to learn more, call 802-463-4323, visit the church, or find them on Facebook.

CAVENDISH, VT.

St. James United Methodist Church, 570 Main St.
Please join us Sundays at 8:45 a.m. with Pastor John Hawkins. All are welcome. For more information, call 802-674-3443 or go to www.facebook.com/stjamesumproctorsville.

CHESTER, VT.

First Universalist Parish of Chester, Route 103 North
Services are Sundays at 10 a.m. in person. Sunday services run from September to early June. Contact chestervtuu@gmail.com for a Zoom link for the service.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 313 Main St.
Services are on Wednesdays at 5:30-6 p.m. and on Sundays at 10 a.m., both in person and by Zoom, followed by coffee hour. All are welcome. Handicapped accessible. For a link to the Zoom service or more information about services and events, please visit www.stlukeseiscopalvt.org.

GRAFTON, VT.

Grafton Community Church, 55 Main St.
Worship begins Sunday at 10 a.m. View sermons on Zoom. For more information, go to www.graftoncommunitychurch.org or call 802-843-2346.

LONDONDERRY, VT.

Second Congregational Church of Londonderry, 2051 N. Main St.
Worship service is at 9:30 a.m. in person or online. Fill out a form at www.2ndcongregationalchurchvt.org to be sent a link to the live stream.

LUDLOW, VT.

Annunciation Catholic Church, Corner of Depot and High St.
Masses are celebrated on Saturday at 4:30 p.m. and on Sunday at 9 a.m. For further information, see our website at churchoftheannunciation.org, or call us at 802-228-3451.

Tyson Community Church, Corner of Rt. 100 and Dublin Rd., opposite Echo Lake Inn.
Services are Sundays at 10:30 a.m. No service last Sunday of the month. Email terry.bascom@pm.me or call 802-228-2480.

MOUNT HOLLY, VT.

Village Baptist Church, 32 Church St.
We welcome all to come and worship with us Sunday at 9:30 a.m. For more information, call 802-259-2440.

PERKINSVILLE, VT.

Bow Baptist Church, 1102 Route 5, Weathersfield Bow
Sunday services are 10 a.m., 11 a.m., and 6 p.m., and Wednesday Bible Study and prayer at 7 p.m. For more information, call 802-546-4902.

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

Calvary Baptist Church, 156 Main St.
Sunday services are 9:30 a.m. in person. Services are still streamed at www.facebook.com/calvarybaptistchurchspringfieldvt. For more information, go to www.calvarylovesspringfield.com.

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 90 Park St.
Sunday Liturgy is 9:30 a.m. and Saturday vespers at 5 p.m. For more information, call 802-885-2615 or Parish Council President Thomas Barton at 802-263-5719.

First Congregational Church, UCC, 77 Main St.
Sunday services are at 10 a.m. in person. Singing is encouraged! For more information, call 802-885-5728, email fccucc@vermontel.net, or go to www.firstchurchspringfield.org.

North Springfield Baptist Church, 581 Giddings Street, North Springfield.
All are welcome and invited to join us for worship on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. For more information, please email the church office at office@nsbcvt.org, or call 802-886-8107. We are handicap accessible.

Michael J. Knoras Sr., 1931-2023

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Michael J. Knoras Sr., 92, died on Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023, at the Jack Byrne Center in Lebanon, N.H., with his family by his side. He was born on July 15, 1931, in Springfield, Vt., the son of Michael and Helen (Lovell) Knoras. He attended Springfield schools, graduating from Springfield High School, Class of 1949, and from the co-op program in 1950.

He served in the United States Air Force as a flight engineer and staff sergeant from 1950-1954.

On Aug. 22, 1964, he married Margaret Hanscom in Springfield, Vt.

Michael was employed as an engineer and purchasing agent with Jones & Lamson Machine Tool Company for 50 years, retiring in 2001 from the Goldman Group as head of purchasing for Jones & Lamson, Bryant Grinder, and Fellows Gear Shaper.

He was a longtime active member of St. Mary's Catholic Church. He was a member and Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus Council #2628 in Springfield. He was a selectman for the Town of Springfield for many years, and also served on many other boards and commissions. At the time of his death, he was still a member of the airport commission, as well as the Historic Mis Club.

Michael enjoyed cooking, and put on many dinners and fish fries over the years at St. Mary's Church in Springfield.

He loved and was very proud of his Polish heritage. He was often found listening to Polish polka music on his cellphone.

He is survived by his wife Peggy; four children Mary-Jo Roldan, Michael Knoras Jr., Edwin Knoras, and Kathleen (Kiki) Boyens; nine grandchildren Mariama Strucula, Brandon Roldan, Alexis Roldan, Alexander Knoras, David Knoras, Taylor Knoras, Eric



Michael Knoras Sr., 1931-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

Lohutko, Kiko Boyens, and Anthony Boyens; six great-grandchildren Isabelle Austin-Lohutko, Mazlyn Lohutko, Oaklan Lohutko, Beckett Lohutko, Colton Richey, and Blakely Boddreaux. He is also survived by several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was predeceased by his father Michael Knoras, mother Helen Zielonko, step-father Joe Zielonko, and by two brothers Edward Paskevich and William Paskevich.

Visiting hours will be on Friday evening, Nov. 17, from 6-8 p.m., at the Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt.

A Memorial Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, Nov. 18, at 11 a.m., at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Springfield, Vt. Burial will follow in the St. Mary's Cemetery.

Special thank you to VNA staff, Springfield Ambulance Service, Springfield Hospital, Mount Ascutney Hospital, DHMC, and Jack Byrne Palliative Care Center.

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CHURCH SERVICES:

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

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOV. 11 – CHESTER, Vt. – There will be a Christmas Holiday Sale held inside the Gassetts Grange on Saturday, Nov. 11, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. There are still tables available for those who would like to sell items at the fair. If you are interested in renting a table, please call Donna at 802-591-4290.

LUDLOW, Vt. – There will be a free lunch for veterans on Saturday, Nov. 11, from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., at the Masonic Hall at 22 Buttermilk Falls Road, hosted by the Black River Lafayette

Lodge of the Mizpah Order of Eastern Star, to thank all veterans of the armed forces.

LANGDON, N.H. – The Fall Mountain Craft Fair will take place on Saturday, Nov. 11, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., at Fall Mountain Regional High School in Langdon, N.H. This annual event features over 60 local vendors, concessions, and childcare, and benefits the Fall Mountain France and Spain 2024 trips, the French and Spanish Clubs, and the Art Club.

NOV. 12 – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Join us

on Sunday, Nov. 12, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. at the Huber Building, 80 Main Street in Springfield, Vermont to share stories about the need for Universal Healthcare. The Vermont Workers Center is working to bring this issue back to the state legislature. We hope Vermont will be able to lead the way in making healthcare available for everyone, while reducing the cost to the public. We are asking everyone who can to bring a dish to share. We will have separate tables for vegan and non-vegan fare. What is most important is your concerns about how healthcare is paid for. Your voice counts in addressing this important issue.

NOV. 13 – LUDLOW, Vt. – There will be free Bingo at the Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street in Ludlow, on Monday, Nov. 13, from 1-3 p.m. Cash prizes and a door prize will be awarded, and refreshments will be served. For more information, call 802-228-7421.

NOV. 16 – LUDLOW, Vt. – There will be a free community lunch on Thursday, Nov. 16, at 12 p.m., at the Ludlow Community Center Cafeteria, 37 Main Street. This will be a full-course turkey dinner, with Bingo to follow the meal. All are welcome.

NOV. 18 – S. LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The South Londonderry Free Library invites kids of all ages to a Thanksgiving workshop with Casey Junker Bailey on Saturday, Nov. 18, at 10:30 a.m. We'll be making crayon print wall hangings and hand

bound thankful books for Thanksgiving festivities. The program is free of charge and, thanks to a generous grant from the Stratton Foundation, each family will receive the storybook "Thankful," to keep. For more information on our monthly programs for kids, contact the library at 802-824-3371.

WALPOLE, N.H. – On Saturday, Nov. 18 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., the First Congregational Church of Walpole on the Common will be revitalizing their much loved Mistletoe Mart. Among items offered will be candy, baked goods, a pet table, a make-and-take card station, jewelry, holiday gifts, coffee and donuts, and the always anticipated white elephant room. The expanded seating Holiday Luncheon is from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., with a choice of soups, a variety of sandwiches, and three dessert selections. Do some early Christmas shopping and enjoy a festive lunch.

NOV. 22 – WALPOLE, N.H. – The First Congregational Church of Walpole will be having their annual Pie Sale on Wednesday, Nov. 22, at the Walpole Post Office, starting at 9 a.m. Come get your Thanksgiving pies and other baked goods.

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

CHESTER, Vt. – The Gassetts Grange holds a dance and open mic night on the second Sunday of

every month, from 1-4 p.m., with live music by Green Mountain Express. Admission and food purchases are by donation. Call Doug or Donna with any questions at 802-591-4290.

MONDAYS – ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – The Rockingham Library hosts a chess club each Monday from 3-5:30 p.m., led by Mike Sola. All levels of players will be welcomed.

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

LUDLOW, Vt. – Aquatic Aerobics, Mondays at 10:35 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

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 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.

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

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.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Knitting Together, every Wednesday, 1-3 p.m., at Village Square Booksellers, knitting hats and mittens for our school kids. We provide yarn, some direction, and an enjoyable visit. Acrylic yarn donations are always welcome. For more information, contact Caroline at 802-463-4653.

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. – Free Chair Yoga classes for ages 50 and over are held on Thursdays from 9-9:45 a.m., at the Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street. All equipment is provided.

WALPOLE, N.H. – Alcoholics Anonymous women's meeting, a 12-step recovery program for women who have a desire to stop drinking, is happening every Thursday at 6 p.m. at the St. John's Episcopal Church at the corner of Westminster and Elm streets in Walpole, N.H. For more information, call Viva at 802-732-8330.

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.

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – On Thursdays at 6 p.m., join Lori Wright for a yoga class. Contact Lori Wright at 603-401-8123 or visit www.dgbodyworks.com for more information. Private classes are available.

LUDLOW, Vt. – Certified instructor Helena Wu will teach Tai Chi classes every Thursday, from 9-10 a.m., at the Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street in Ludlow. Classes are free, and are limited to 10 participants. Registration is required. For more information, contact the Senior Center at 802-228-7421, or Helena Wu at 802-289-7369.

FRIDAYS – CHESTER, Vt. – Alcoholics Anonymous meetings held every Friday at 6:30 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church, located at 96 South Main Street in Chester. If you have a problem with alcohol, this is an understanding place to come to.

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

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.dgbodyworks.com for more information. Private classes are available.

DAILY – REGION – If you want to drink that's your business, but if you want to stop, that's ours. Contact Alcoholics Anonymous at www.aavt.org or call your local hotline at 802-802-2288 and join a meeting. You are not alone.

TOWN OF GRAFTON Equipment Operator/Truck Driver

The Town of Grafton, Vermont is seeking qualified applicants for a full-time Equipment Operator/Truck Driver. Job duties include snow plowing, salting, and sanding in the winter months, and general highway maintenance and construction work in the other months. The employee must be able to perform general labor duties and minor repairs and maintenance to the highway equipment. Ability to communicate in a courteous manner to co-workers and the general public is required. Must have a valid Commercial Driver's License (CDL).

The Town of Grafton is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer and does offer an excellent benefits package.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Apply to: Morgan Wilbur, Town Administrator, PO Box 180, Grafton, VT 05146, or by email at townadmin@graftonvt.org

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD TAXPAYER NOTICE

The second quarter installment of the 2023-2024 Town & Town School District Taxes is due and payable **November 15, 2023**. Payments can be made as follows:

- In person or through the mail.
- Dropped into our mail slot located in the white door that faces Main Street or into the mail slot located in the door on the second floor at the top of the outside stairs.
- Electronically on the town's website at <https://springfieldvt.gov>. A fee is charged for this method of payment.

Payment receipts available in person or by including a stamped self-addressed return envelope or an email address. Town Hall is open M-F 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Barbara A. Courchesne, Treasurer

Springfield Public Meeting Riverwalk Alternatives Presentation

6:00 PM
Monday November 27, 2023
Selectboard Hall
96 Main Street
Third Floor
Springfield, VT

The Town of Springfield is investigating Pedestrian improvements to River Street from Chester Rd. to Elm Hill St. We are hosting a public meeting to gather public input on Alternatives. Please attend and provide your thoughts. If you are unable to attend and have comments/questions, please contact Martha Harrison, Municipal Project Manager, Mount Ascutney Regional Planning Commission, 802-674-9201x122 mharrison@marcvt.org

We Want to Hear from You!

TOWN OF CHESTER Whiting Library Board of Trustees

The Whiting Library is seeking an individual to be appointed to the Board of Trustees. This position involves attending monthly meetings; working with other trustees overseeing the general operations of the library; assisting with budget preparations; promoting and advocating for the library in the community; and other necessary duties. Letters of Interest must be emailed to Matthew.Gorsky@whitinglibrary.org no later than November 13, 2023.

TOWN OF CHESTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY WATER/WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR

The Town of Chester has a full-time employment opportunity available in its Water/Wastewater Department. This job is specific to the position of Operator of the Wastewater Plant and Municipal Water System. Minimum requirements are:

- * High School Diploma or equivalent
- * Minimum of a VT GD 2 Domestic WW Operator Certification preferred but will train the right applicant
- * Minimum of a Grade 3 Water Certification or the ability to obtain the Grade 3 Certification within 2 years
- * Two years applicable experience in all phases of water/wastewater system operation and maintenance preferred
- * Significant knowledge of Vermont regulatory and reporting requirements to ensure compliance with all conditions of water and wastewater permits preferred.
- * Ability to deal with the public in a positive manner
- * General contracting and basic maintenance skills a plus
- * Willingness to work alongside other departments

Starting salary will be determined based on experience with a competitive benefits package. The position will remain open until filled. Please submit Employment Application and Resume to the Chester Town Manager's Office, 556 Elm Street, P.O. Box 370, Chester, VT, 05143.



Town of Westminster
P.O. BOX 147 WESTMINSTER, VT 05158
Tel. 802-722-4524 Fax 802-722-9816

DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD (DRB) WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL Westminster, Vermont

Legal Notice

The Westminster Development Review Board will meet at 6:30 pm on **Monday, December 4, 2023** to consider the following:

Application # 24-18

Application # 24-18 (Preliminary Plat Hearing) James & Linda Marcille property located at 122 Old Ledge Road. The Applicant is requesting a major subdivision. Application will be reviewed under **Section 311 Site Plan Review; Section 447 Rural Residential District; and Article VIII Subdivision of Land (Major Subdivision)** of the adopted 2017 Zoning Bylaws.

Application # 24-19

Application # 24-19 Aurelius DiBernardo property located off Route 121. The Applicant is requesting a Lot Line Adjustment. Application will be reviewed under **Section 311 Site Plan Review; Section 446 Residential District;** of the adopted 2017 Zoning Bylaws.

Participation in the proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to make any subsequent appeals.

The application is available for review in the Westminster Town Hall, 3651 US Route 5 Westminster, Vermont 05158, Monday – Friday from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm.

State of Vermont

Superior Court
Windsor Unit

Probate Division
Case No. 23-PR-06456

In re: Estate of John M. Gabert

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

To the creditors of John M. Gabert, late of Springfield, Vermont.

I have been appointed to administer this estate. All creditors having claims against the decedent or estate must present their claims in writing within 4 months of the first publication of this notice. **The claim must be presented to me at the address listed below with a copy sent to the Court. The claim may be forever barred if it is not presented within the four (4) month period.**

Dated: November 2, 2023

/s/William E. Dakin, Jr.
William E. Dakin, Jr., Administrator
c/o Dakin & Benelli, P.C.
PO Box 499
Chester, VT 05143
802-875-4000

Name of Publication: The Vermont Journal

Publication Date: Nov. 08, 2023

Address of Probate Court:
Vermont Superior Court
Windsor Unit, Probate Division
12 The Green
Woodstock, VT 05091

classifieds

BUYING/SELLING

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

ESTATE SALE

Estate sale Friday and Saturday, Nov. 10 and 11, from 9 am - 5 pm, 76 Elm Hill, Springfield, VT. Years of collecting, quality antiques and modern décor, no junk. 802-885-3050.

FIREWOOD

Firewood for sale, 1 ton log load truck, 1 cord at 8-10 foot length, \$130 a cord. You cut and split. Delivered to Chester and Londonderry. 802-875-2646.

Free firewood, must have your own pickup truck and saw, Windham, Vt. 802-875-2646.

FOR SALE

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - 2012 Basha Edge Sport 150 Scooter, new tires, battery, air filter, lights all work, includes cover, lockable luggage, color yellow, odometer is 2,233. Fires right up. Asking \$900. Call 802-885-2370.

MERCURY MARQUI, 2004, mint condition. This car was owned and maintained by one owner. 113,000 miles, clean inside and out. \$4,500. Please call for photos 802-770-0569.

OVER 2000 BROKEN-IN TIRES
MANY SETS OF 4



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

RON PATCH

Buying Antiques: Photographs Military Clocks Guns Coins

802-374-0119

GUNS WANTED

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

HELP WANTED

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: Nonprofit Windsor County social service agency seeking full-time Assistant Director. Professional, self-motivated and knowledgeable with excellent communication and technical skills. Previous experience preferred. Competitive salary and benefits. For detailed job description submit cover letter and resume to: kkeillingtonbrngns@gmail.com.

Chef wanted. Part-time, 4-5 days/month, includes menu planning, prep work, cooking, and serving local community meals. A program of Black River Good Neighbor Services, meals are offered twice monthly. Experience with large quantity cooking necessary, 20-24 hours/month. Competitive salary offered. Please contact Krey Kellington at 802-228-3663.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. - FT/PT Second shift available, hours between 3-9, Direct Care for Elderly in Family-owned Assisted Living. Call 603-826-0840.

PT Manager for the Chester Andover Family Center Thrift Shop, 25-30 hours per week, \$25/hour. Full job description at www.chester-andoverfamilycenter.org. Email resume to cafc302@gmail.com.

Looking for a reliable person to snowplow and take care of sidewalks. Snow Blowers on site to use. Easy plowing, apartment complex. Must be able to salt and sand. Salt provided for walkways. Willing to do a contract price or per plow. Readsboro, Vt. Call 802-388-6174.

Seeking a maintenance position for an apartment complex, full/part time with a monthly salary along with hourly billables. Call 802-338-6174 for details.

SNOW PLOWING

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

featured pet



SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Coonhound lovers must come meet Dairy Sue. This beautiful hound is 1 1/2 years old. She loves people, is good with dogs, and has been respectful of cats. She is really missing being in a home, and we cannot wait for her to have a family to love again. We are open Wednesday-Saturday, from 12-4 p.m. for walk-ins. For more information on Dairy Sue, or to sign up for our low cost cat-only spay/neuter clinics, call 802-885-3997.

Springfield Humane Society
 401 Skitchewaugh Trail, Springfield, Vt.
 802-885-3997
 www.spfldhumane.org

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 Diesel
 4 Door
 Fully Loaded
 Cruise Control
 4x4



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 7 Passenger
 Auto
 4 Cylinder
 Fully Loaded

2016 Jeep Patriot Sport
 Cruise Control
 Power Windows
 Auto
 4x4



2016 Honda HRV
 AWD
 Cruise Control
 Sunroof
 Fully Loaded

2015 Honda CRV EX-L
 AWD
 Auto
 Heated Seats
 Bluetooth



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

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 (802) 362-4663 • Fax (802) 362-6330 • TDD 1-800-545-1833 EXT. 326 OR 175

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 THM Property Management
 129 Lincoln Ave.
 Manchester Center, VT 05255
 802-367-5252
 802-367-5251
 Hearing Impaired 1-800-545-1833 ext. 326

We do not discriminate against tenant applications on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, age, creed, gender identity, gender related characteristic or because a person intends to occupy a dwelling unit with one or more minor children or because a person is a recipient of public assistance, sexual orientation, marital status or disability.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

THM is an equal opportunity provider and employer

— Weekly SUDOKU —
 Answer

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

— King Crossword —
 Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

H	A	L	O	I	M	P	J	U	T	E		
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T	S	A	R		S	O	S		S	U	N	S

yellow page BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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

Art Crafts Gifts

GALLERY AT THE VAULT
 Vermont State Craft Center
 Art Crafts Gifts & Workshops
 68 Main St., Springfield 802-885-7111
OPEN Wed. to Sat. 11-5 & Fri. til 7

See <http://galleryvault.org> for workshop details and to register:
 Joyful Calligraphy Workshop with Jorika Stockwell 11/11

Current Shows:
 Painted Silk Scarves by Teresa Hillary
 Wonders of Fall by VAULT Artists
 (01/24/24 - 1FN - 13)

Builders/Contractors

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 (11/22/23 - 52)

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 (11/15/23 - 13)

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 (11/22/23 - 52)

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 (11/08/23 - 13)

Chiropractor

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 Dr. Denise Natale 58 Parker Avenue, Proctorsville, VT 05153, 802-226-7977 Hours: Tuesday 1pm-6pm, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 10am-6pm.
 (08/14/24 - 1FN - 52)

Cleanouts

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 (11/08/23 - 13)

Masonry

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 (11/22/23 - 13)

Okemo Valley TV

LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

- Ludlow Halloween Celebration
- Mount Holly Emergency Services
- Yoh Theatre Players
- Green Horn Live
- John Specker fiddle

Okemo Valley TV now has its own app on all of the main streaming platforms! Apple TV, Roku, Amazon Fire TV, Google Play, and mobile (iOS & Android)
 (01/03/24 - 1FN - 13)

arts & events HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Sam Robbins and Sandy Bailey at Stage 33

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Sam Robbins and Sandy Bailey will co-headline Stage 33 Live, 33 Bridge Street in Bellows Falls, Vt., on Sunday, Nov. 19, at 7 p.m. Advance tickets can be purchased through www.stage33live.com for guaranteed entry. There is limited seating, and the event will be recorded and filmed.

Nashville-based Sam Robbins' music nods to classic 70s singer-songwriters like James Taylor and Neil Young while giving it a modern, upbeat edge. He was a winner in the Kerrville Folk Festival New Folk competition,

one of the largest and most prestigious songwriting competitions in the country. A full time troubadour, he plays over 150 shows a year across the country including the Kerrville Folk Festival main stage, Dripping Springs Songwriter's Festival, and Falcon Ridge Folk Festival, where he was voted one of the "Most Wanted to Return" artists. A graduate of Berklee College of Music's songwriting department, Sam has hosted songwriting workshops and masterclasses, including at the Harvard Music Department.

Soul and folk singer-songwriter Sandy Bailey

has been compared to Norah Jones, Patsy Cline, Susan Tedeschi, and Patti Smith – but has a sound all her own, incorporating elements of gospel, blues, soul, and classic Americana. A biracial woman and single mother, she left behind her Pentecostal upbringing in favor of a life of making art and music. Mentored by Gretchen Peters and Mary Gauthier, she was chosen as one of 11 songwriters to attend Club Passim's 2022 Hilltop Songwriting Residency. She's shared stages with artists like Lucy Kaplansky, Eilen Jewel, Christine Lavin, and Heather Maloney. Her new album, "Daughter of Abraham," includes performances by guitarist Ryan Hommel (Amos Lee), bassist and engineer Marc Seedorf (Dinosaur Jr., Lou Barlow), and drummer Don McAulay (The Rolling Stones, Neil Young).

Brighten downtown Springfield for the holidays

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Each year, the Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce orchestrates the illumination of downtown Springfield, going beyond the lampposts on Main Street. The lampposts, Santa's house, and the community holiday tree are all infused with a festive glow that fosters a sense of warmth and unity throughout the winter months. This cherished tradition not only transforms the townscape into a welcoming spectacle, but also provides a delightful experience for both residents and visitors.

As we diligently prepare for this year's holiday program, we face the challenge of replacing worn-out strands of lights used in previous years. The expense of acquiring new lights is substantial, but with collaborative effort, we can make it a reality. We invite businesses, organizations, and individuals to consider sponsoring Brighten Downtown, contributing to the continuation of this special tradition in Springfield.

With a modest contribution, you can actively support the festive illumination of our downtown area, playing a crucial role in bringing the holiday spirit

to Springfield. Your generosity will be publicly acknowledged through social media channels and a press release, allowing you to be a part of something truly special, and make a meaningful impact on our community.

We appreciate any and all support. Anyone with questions about Brighten Downtown for the Holidays, please contact Alice at the chamber at 802-885-2779 or alice@springfieldvt.com. Checks can be made payable to "Springfield Regional Chamber" and sent to Springfield Regional Chamber, 56 Main Street, Ste 2, Springfield, VT 05156.

Bellows Falls Emblem Club annual Thanksgiving pie sale

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Bellows Falls Emblem Club will hold their annual pie sale on Nov. 22, at Simone's Styling Salon, 41 Square, next door to the former Richards Group Insurance Co. This pie sale helps with our donations to the local community and to our scholarship fund to Bellows Falls Union High

School and Fall Mountain Regional High School.

Pre-order the pies of your choice by Nov. 18, or stop in and see what we have. Call Simone at 802-463-3573 or 802-463-3992. Leave a message if no answer.



Order your pies today! PHOTO PROVIDED

Walpole holiday fun events

WALPOLE, N.H. – Walpole welcomes you to holiday fun on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., with several events throughout town.

The Farmers Market on the Common, with multiple vendors of fresh produce, meat, cheese, greens, plus crafts and gift items.

See their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/GreatRiverCoop.

Mistletoe Mart will be at the Congregational Church on the Common with lunch, candy, baked goods, crafts, white elephants, gifts, and trims. Visit www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalWalpoleNH for

more information. And finally, the Holiday Fair at St. John's across from the Common, with a Cookie Walk (choose and pay by the pound), baked goods, preserves, homemade treasures, antiques, and a 50-50 raffle. More information can be found at www.stjohnswalpole.org.

"Autumn Color/Winter White" at the VAULT

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Gallery at the VAULT is proud to present a new Open Wall show, "Autumn Color/Winter White." This show includes beautiful paintings, photographs, clay sculpture, paper sculpture, jewelry, wooden boxes, and knitted and crocheted clothing. We also have hand painted children's and adult furniture by Corky Bond, which is part of our artful flea. The talent of our neighbors and friends around Spring-

field is remarkable. This is a wonderful show. Thank you to all the participants. The works will be on display until Dec. 27.

Open Wall is a non-juried show for any artists living in a 30-mile radius of Springfield. For more information, please call 802-885-7111, email galleryvault@vermontel.net, visit www.galleryvault.org or the gallery's Facebook page, or come into Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main Street in Springfield. We are open Wednesday,



Howe Williams' work. PHOTO PROVIDED

Thursday, and Saturday, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Friday, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

OKEMO MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

SKI SWAP

SKIS · SNOWBOARDS · GEAR

NOV. 17-19

ROUND HOUSE AT JACKSON GORE

FRIDAY 4 PM - 7 PM
SATURDAY 9 AM - 5 PM
SUNDAY 9 AM - 1 PM

NEW AND USED EQUIPMENT

To sell your used equipment, it must be dropped off at the Round House at Jackson Gore from 10 am. - 3 p.m. on the following dates:

SAT, NOV 11 | SUN, NOV 12 | WED, NOV 15

ALL SALES BENEFIT OKEMO MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

OKEMOMOUNTAINSCHOOL.ORG

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

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12				13				14			
15								16			
17											
20	21	22			23						
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35								36			
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41					42	43			44	45	46
47					48						
49					50			51			

ACROSS

1 Angelic ring
5 Little rascal
8 Burlap fiber
12 Switchboard worker
14 Barak of Israel
15 Longtime CBS News anchor Walter
16 Chinese secret society
17 Aachen article
18 Glide
20 Long
23 Pack of cards
24 Wan
25 Wood eater
28 1959 Kingston Trio hit
29 Relinquish
30 Flamenco cheer
32 "Char" lotte's Web' author
34 Boring
35 Unctuous
36 Test versions
37 Catch some Z's
40 Flow out
41 Young cow
42 Almost
47 Leer at
48 Acts altruistically

DOWN

1 Ad —
2 Earth Day mo.
3 Zodiac cat
4 Cantankerous
5 "Don't rub —!"
6 Witticism
7 Keep from spoiling
8 Lakeside rental
9 "Oops!"
10 Casserole base
11 Jittery
13 Related
19 Summit
20 Orange veggie
21 Noble Italian family
22 Pequod captain
23 God
25 Hindmost
26 Talk up
27 First lady of scat
29 Brainiac
31 Goller Ernie
33 Stereo component
34 Fixes, as software
36 Cookouts, briefly
37 Highlander
38 Kvetches
39 Stewpot
40 Summers in Paris
43 Tic-tac-toe win
44 Debtor's note
45 Heavy weight
46 Mag. staff

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Community Lunch

Thursday, November 16th

Serving at Noon
Ludlow Community Center Cafeteria
37 Main Street, Ludlow

A welcoming, homestyle, full-course, Turkey Dinner.

BINGO follows the meal!

Meal provided by:
Black River Good Neighbor Services

All are Welcome, free of charge.

arts & entertainment

“Rising Stars” at Bellows Falls Opera House

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – One of the great joys of concert-going is discovering great new music. Established names may sell tickets, but sometimes the opening act brings down the house on their own. That’s the idea behind the “Catch the Rising Stars” concert at the Bellows Falls Opera House on Nov. 16 – three acts that wowed Bellows Falls audiences are returning for a co-headlining triple bill that is sure to pack a wallop.

Crys Matthews, Peter Mulvey, and BettySoo are three immeasurably talented – and very different – acts. Matthews was unknown to most of the audience when she took the stage at the very first Ray Massucco Concert Series show in February of this year. She left to a standing ovation.

She jokes that she is “the poster-child for intersectionality,” but her songs of compassionate dissent are, as Justin Hiltner of Bluegrass Situation put it, “a reminder of what beauty can occur when we bridge those divides.” She is made for these times. “By wrapping honest emotions around her socially conscious messages and dynamically delivering them with a warm heart and a strong voice, she lifts our spirits just when we need it most,” says American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers creative di-

rector Eric Philbrook.

“I’m so incredibly excited to be returning to the Bellows Falls Opera House,” says Matthews. “Getting to open for Dar Williams there was one of the highlights of that tour, and the community made me feel so welcome and at home. I’m looking forward to singing for and with you all again.”

Peter Mulvey has played Bellows Falls numerous times over the last two decades, and his opening set for The Steel Wheels in April was a tour-de-force. Moving assuredly from his own stunning compositions to songs from the American songbook, to spoken-word pieces, to dazzling, understated guitar work, Mulvey riveted the capacity audience.

“As a young songwriter, without quite knowing it, I did my best to stand up for human decency, and the surest path there: pluralistic democracy. As usual in life, these days I find myself learning from those younger than me,” says Mulvey, who, although in his 50s, recently became a father. “And I’m delighted to get to learn from BettySoo and Chrys, onstage and in real time.”

BettySoo, the “Asian-Americana queen of Austin,” appeared at the 2018 Roots on the River stage as one third of vocal trio Nobody’s Girl. Fresh off a sum-

mer tour with Texas songwriter James McMurtry, she made national news this year when, during encores in Tennessee and Texas – states that have recently passed laws restricting drag performers – the two cross-dressed for the final song of the night. “We were just doing our little bit for humanity,” explained the laconic McMurtry.

“I’m so looking forward to sharing the night with Crys and Peter,” says BettySoo. “They are not only masters of their craft, but they are also vocal champions for justice and compassion.”

Ezra Veitch of Ray’s the Roof Productions is excited for the show. “Ray loved to discover new music, he liked progressive politics, and he would absolutely love this lineup,” says Veitch. Massucco, a beloved local lawyer and music promoter, passed away suddenly last September. The final Ray’s the Roof show of the year will be Karla Bonoff and Livingston Taylor’s “Home For The Holidays” concert on Dec. 16. Media sponsor for all shows is Great Eastern Radio.

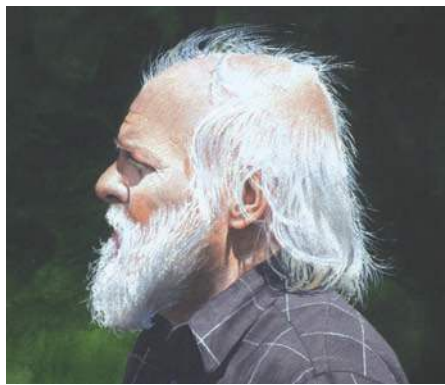
The Bellows Falls Opera House is located at 7 Village Square, Bellows Falls, Vt. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., showtime is 7:30 p.m. Tickets and information can be found at www.bellowsfallsoperahouse.com.

Saxtons River Art Guild portrait workshop

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Saxtons River Art Guild (SRAG) announces a one-day workshop given by Vermont watercolorist Robert J. O’Brien on Saturday, Nov. 18, at the United Church of Bellows Falls, 8 School Street in Bellows Falls, Vt., from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Workshop fees are discounted for SRAG members. SRAG will have coffee and tea, please bring a lunch.

The theme of the workshop is “Portraits.” The human portrait will be explored in this workshop. Painting from a photographic reference, students will learn how to paint a portrait with all of its nuances and subtleties in watercolor, using a layering process. For a demonstration, Robert will paint a finished portrait, while explaining each step of the painting process.

Please bring your watercolors, paper, and a reference photo featuring a person to work from. You will be working on your own artwork as Robert does his demonstration. A critique and class discussion will be held at the end of the session. If needed, Robert will have several reference photos available to work from. This is open to all abilities, with some drawing and watercolor experience suggested. O’Brien has been painting in watercolor for over 40 years, and is a popular workshop instructor. More information



A portrait by Robert J. O’Brien. PHOTO PROVIDED

and images of his artworks can be found on his website, www.robertjobrien.com.

For workshop registration or more information, please contact Carolyn Berglund at poohbear@ne.rr.com. Masks and Covid vaccinations are suggested for those attending the SRAG workshops.

“Dragon Land” at NXT Gallery

PUTNEY, Vt. – NXT Gallery is excited to announce the opening reception of “Dragon Land,” an exhibition by artist and acupuncturist Sarah H. Paulson. The event will take place on Sunday, Nov. 19, from 4-6 p.m.

Paulson is an artist and acupuncturist based in Putney, Vt. She combines various artistic disciplines, including drawing, painting, music, dance, movement, video, and visual art, to create large-scale, multi-disciplinary pieces. Her work has been exhibited and performed at numerous galleries and venues worldwide. She is also the author of the book of poems, “To My Companion: within the room within the room,” published by the 3 Lights Press.

“My art practice is performative,” says Paulson. “I believe that performance, in its sacred form, has the capacity to bring the human being closest to what it means to be human. This sentiment is at the heart of all my work, including my drawings and paintings.”

Paulson’s “Dragon Land” presents inner worlds, creatures, and dynamic com-

munication through her paintings. The unique aspect of this series is the canvas itself: a collaborative creation, involving artists, dancers, writers, and musicians who dipped their feet in pigment and contributed to the foundation of these artworks. Natural earth-based inks, crafted from a variety of organic sources, serve as the primary medium for this series.

“It is my hope that these landscapes can speak to the viewer in a language that

transcends the spoken word,” Paulson explains. “Art teaches me with every brushstroke and every gesture.”

The Next Stage Gallery is open during events and by appointment with the artist, or by contacting Next Stage at info@nextstagearts.org or 802-451-0053. The exhibit will continue through Feb. 11.

For further information, please contact Heather Ahrenholz at heather@nextstagearts.org or 802-451-0053.

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1. Visit **shaws.com** or use the **Shaw's Deals and Delivery App**
2. Select Ludlow Shaw's store Zip Code 05149 for pick up
3. Sign in or Sign up
4. Start Shopping and select a pickup time slot at checkout
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community news

The MOOVer announces new stops

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – The MOOVer is adding new stops on its Route 57 Bellows Falls-Ludlow schedule, and on its Route 61 Ludlow Village schedule.

Effective Nov. 24, the MOOVer will add stops at Cavendish Green and at 841 Main Street in Cavendish.

The schedule has been revised slightly to accom-

modate the two stops. It will operate daily Nov. 24, 2023 – April 7, 2024. The bus departs the Penguin Mart in Bellows Falls at 6:20 a.m. and 3:20 p.m., arriving at the Okemo Base Lodge at 7:47 a.m. and 4:47 p.m. The bus leaves Jackson Gore for the Okemo Base Lodge and Bellows Falls at 7:55 a.m. and 4:55 p.m., arriving at the Penguin Mart at

9:25 a.m. and 6:25 p.m.

The Route 61 Ludlow Village route has added stops at The Point, Stoney Fields, West Woods, and Alpen Meadows. The schedule runs weekends and holidays, Dec. 23, 2023 – March 31, 2024.

The full schedules are available at www.moover.com.

Southeastern Vermont Youth Opportunity Regional Forum

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Residents throughout Windham and Windsor counties are encouraged to attend the upcoming Youth Opportunity Regional Forum on Nov. 14, from 5:30-7 p.m., at the River Valley Tech Center at the Howard Dean Educational Center in Springfield, to think together about how we can improve opportunities for youth in our communities. Free pizza and desserts will be served.

On Nov. 14, youth and adults will come together to answer the questions, “What are the youth opportunity success stories and bright spots today in Vermont?” “What are the current gaps, challenges, and concerns about the ability for our youth to succeed and achieve their ambitions?” “What are your ideas or vision points for how we can best support our youth in achieving career, educational, and life success?” The forum will be co-facilitated by the Vermont Council on Rural Development (VCRD), and a local youth facilitator.

These regional forums, taking place across the state, are a chance for people of

all ages, backgrounds, and experiences to come together and share their ideas on a range of topics, including education, job training, community connection, youth voice, mentoring, and more. This input will be combined with ideas gathered from forums across the state, a statewide survey, and stakeholder interviews, and will then be shared with the Future of Vermont Action Team, who will make concrete policy and programmatic recommendations for how Vermont can better support youth in engaging in their communities, participating in the economy of today and the future, and seizing opportunities here in Vermont and beyond.

VCRD community engagement and policy director and initiative lead Jenna Koloski says, “We have the opportunity in Vermont to craft a narrative of hope, aspiration, equity, and potential for all youth around the state. Whether you’re a young person with a vision for the future, or an adult with ideas on how to make a difference, your input is important.”

The Vermont Youth

Opportunity Initiative emerged through The Vermont Proposition Initiative, which was coordinated by the Vermont Council on Rural Development in 2021 through input from thousands of Vermonters. A youth opportunity advisory group of statewide leaders and youth members has developed a statewide engagement process to hear from thousands of Vermonters, and then review findings to make action recommendations to the Future of Vermont Action Team, a diverse group of 20 leaders convened and facilitated by VCRD to implement the ten elements of the Vermont Proposition.

To learn more and stay up to date on the progress of the Youth Opportunity Initiative, additional forums, and the Vermont Proposition, join the VCRD Partnership for the Future of Vermont mailing list at lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/IKMkesB, or visit www.futureofvermont.org/youth-opportunity-initiative.

Password protection strategies

REGION – We all know that the more complicated a password is, the better. They should include a mixture of numbers, punctuation marks, symbols, and uppercase and lowercase letters. But are these precautions enough to keep your digital information safe?

Twitter, Yahoo, and LinkedIn have all fallen prey to online attackers who have stolen entire databases full of passwords. The passwords are scrambled for security, but this offers little comfort when computer programs can make millions of guesses in just a few hours. Because most passwords are based on words in a dictionary combined with a number or symbol, it can take these sophisticated programs even less time to hack them.

The end result is that common password policies don’t prevent the theft of many users’ passwords, which creates a complex, sophisticated, and lucrative shadow industry. Believe it or not, stolen passwords can fetch big money on the black market.

So, what does that mean to you? It means

that every password you’ve created is a valuable and vulnerable commodity worth protecting.

To do so, you should go a step beyond choosing passwords that are hard for a human to guess. Your passwords need to also be difficult for a computer to figure out. Here are some tips.

Favor length over complexity

Longer passwords are more difficult to crack. A minimum of 12 characters is recommended. Consider stringing together the first couple letters of a favorite movie quote, song lyric, or poem. For extra-sensitive accounts, it may make sense to change your passwords on a regular basis. If you like the idea of optimal password protection, but worry you won’t be able to handle many, frequently changing passwords, password managers can help you organize, store, and use multiple passwords safely.

No plain english

Simple strings of numbers, along with passwords that can be found in the dictionary, are the easiest to crack. A strong password should contain one or more uppercase and lowercase characters, numbers, symbols, and even unicode characters.

Mix it up

Many people use the same password for multiple accounts because it’s easier to remember. But this could lead to serious consequences. You may not be too concerned about the personal information stored in your LinkedIn or Twitter accounts, but what would happen if hackers used your compromised password to access your email, brokerage, or bank accounts? If you have trouble remembering multiple passwords, you may want to keep a list on your computer, but don’t store it on your desktop or in your inbox. Give the file a misleading name and bury it in a folder where only you can find it.

There’s no such thing as an impregnable password. Still, putting personal information behind a basic password is like leaving your Porsche in a parking lot with your keys on the dash. By taking preventative measures to strengthen your password, you may be able to help safeguard your sensitive personal data and your privacy.

Written by Huntley Financial Services, www.huntleyfs.com, 802-228-5774.

Senior Solutions Veterans Day observance

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Nov. 9, two days before Veterans Day, Senior Solutions is holding a reception in its office at 38 Pleasant Street, Springfield, Vt., from 10 a.m. –

12 p.m. We want to honor those who have served our country in the armed forces. All veterans are invited to attend with family members. We will be recognizing your service and

continued dedication to your communities and each other. Please come share a buffet lunch and companionship with us during this very important and meaningful week.

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