



# THE SHOPPER Newspaper

NOVEMBER 15, 2023 | WWW.VERMONTJOURNAL.COM

VOLUME 62, ISSUE 46

## Rockingham Selectboard will ask voters to take town meeting survey

BY PAULA BENSON  
*The Shopper*

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – The Rockingham Selectboard held their bi-monthly meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 7, at 6 p.m., in the lower theater of the Bellows Falls Opera House. Chair Peter Golec called the meeting to order, and quickly began running down the agenda.

Town manager Scott Pickup reported that two of the projects begun this past summer, paving Pine Street and repairing sidewalks, won't be able to be completed until next Spring, but the budget for each will not increase. Pickup also gave an update on the removal of trees related to the Depot Street Bridge project, telling the board that the final design meeting is yet to be scheduled, but he expected the project would go out to bidders in late winter.

RHR Smith & Company Managing Partner Ron Smith was in attendance via Zoom to present the board with the audit of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. Smith began by telling the board the auditors

were about a month ahead of schedule, but remarked, "If there was such a thing as a bad budget year for Rockingham, where you kind of got hit by many things, this [2023] audit was one of them. Public works being one, fuel costs, maintenance costs..."

Smith listed some of the items that negatively impacted the budget during 2023, including unexpected repairs and equipment purchases, and the rising cost of town salaries and benefits, but concluded the year, "could have been a lot worse." His biggest concern was that the town fund balance had gone down from 60 to 45 days, the lowest it has been for several years.

"Back in 2021," Smith commented, "the [Build Back Better Act] was passed and was just signed into law in August 2023. There is a lot of money [\$2.5 billion] coming to the State of Vermont for infrastructure needs for local governments. Maybe we can inject some cash back into Rockingham's pocket over the next 2-3 years," Smith remarked.

Parks and recreation director Ryan Stoodley was at the meeting to discuss some issues his department had during the summer months finding qualified lifeguards and other staff to operate the town recreational program. Stoodley said they start looking for qualified applicants in January, to hire staff to start in May, and each year it's gotten more difficult to fill the positions.

Pickup referred to the challenge as "the hunger games," and expressed that Rockingham used to be able to work with neighboring communities, but the scarcity of prospective employees throughout the area has put a strain on that collaboration. The department is "thinking outside the box," and "looking at non-traditional solutions."

Stoodley presented how Vermont's requirements for PCB levels in schools will affect the town's winter recreation program. Reporting that the PCB test results from the high school should be back soon, and the middle school had an upcoming date set for test-

ing, Stoodley said the hope is that the renovation of the high school nearly a decade ago eradicated the issue there. But if the numbers came back dangerously high, Stoodley mentioned he had a back-up plan to work out a shared schedule with Westminster.

The board confirmed the appointment of Ryan Gumbart and Gary Fox to the planning and zoning department, as zoning administrator, and acting administrator, respectively.

Board member Bonnie North was in attendance after suffering a stroke last month and temporarily stepping away from her duties. North and fellow board member Rick Cowan had been working together to collect community feedback regarding the importance of town meetings, how to improve them, increase attendance, and attract more voter participation. North and Cowan created a survey to send to all registered voters that "would get everybody's attention."

Cowan described the benefits of preserving the

town meeting, stating, "It is a tradition that goes back to the founding of our town, and is a form of direct democracy, calling for citizen participation." That active participation, Cowan explained, is vital, with folks able to talk and exchange views, hear others' opinions, and get to know their neighbors. However, low attendance at the meetings has created concern among board members that the voice of the majority is not being heard.

The non-binding survey will be posted online on the town website, and postcards will be mailed to voters, and be made available at various locations around town.

The board approved North's request of \$2,000 to cover the costs of conducting the survey, including printing and mailing expenses, and the purchase of the online survey program SurveyMonkey.

The board discussed adding a hot-button issue to the town meeting's agenda, an idea proven to generate an increase in the number of attendees. That topic might be an address of concerns regarding town EMS services, with Pickup stressing the urgency of working on a solution to the current emergency response management system.

The selectboard will meet next on Tuesday, Nov. 21.

## Kurn Hattin Homes expands music program

**WESTMINSTER, Vt.** – Timing is everything, especially when it comes to music.

When the Robin Colson Memorial Foundation was established in 1993, one of its objectives was to honor Robin's memory by providing financial aid to organizations for the purchase of musical instruments. Last month, Kurn Hattin Homes was fortunate to receive funding from the Robin Colson Memorial Foundation to purchase 30 new ukuleles, and expand its stellar music program. Serendipitously, they were thrilled to learn that renowned musician Jake Shimabukuro, aka the Jimi Hendrix of ukulele, would be performing nearby.

As timing, luck, and the good will of many would have it, a number of enthu-



Kurn Hattin students holding ukuleles.

PHOTO PROVIDED

siastic Kurn Hattin students had the opportunity to sit in on Shimabukuro's sound check at the Spruce Peak Arts Center in Stowe, Vt. There, Jake spent time talking with the kids about the importance of finding one's passion, and the dedication it takes to become successful. Then, Jake and his band played a private, all-request ukulele concert that included songs by the Beatles, and Queen's "Bohemian

Rhapsody." In addition to meeting Shimabukuro, his bandmates, and the technical crew, the kids witnessed firsthand how technology and talent come together to make beautiful music.

The excitement generated from this once-in-a-lifetime experience came back to the Homes, and has been reverberating in the music room ever since. The generous funding from the Robin Colson Memorial Fund, together with the kindness of spirit extended by Jake Shimabukuro and his team, have launched an exciting new dimension in Kurn Hattin Homes' music program.

"The Kurn Hattin music program is extremely thankful to the Robin Colson Foundation for their generous donation in helping us start a new ukulele program," said Lisa Bianconi, the homes' director of music. "These new instruments are allowing our talented children the opportunity to practice, create, and perform new music."



Jake Shimabukuro (right) explains his high-tech footboard to the Kurn Hattin students.

PHOTO PROVIDED



### Trunk or Treat

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Springfield Lodge 1560 members and Springfield High School youths held a "ghoulish" drug awareness program as part of Springfield's annual Trunk or Treat event. Elroy the Elk along with his lodge helpers distributed bags of drug awareness coloring books, literature, and candy, while escorting attendees through the "haunted" trailer. Over 400 people were in attendance during this community event.

PHOTO PROVIDED

## Springfield Garden Club wins state awards

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Eight members of the Springfield Garden Club (SGC) attended the annual meeting of the Federated Garden Clubs of Vermont (FGCV) on June 6, at the Philo Ridge Farm in Charlotte, Vt. The SGC is one of sixteen garden clubs throughout the state that meet twice a year to share ideas and educational programs. Three out of six members of the FGCV Executive Board are from Springfield:

Cheryl Pierce serves as secretary, Therese Burton as treasurer and Barbara Riotte as assistant treasurer.

The SGC received eight awards for their work over the past year. The awards included best yearbook for

clubs with 45-69 members, best newsletter, and one for co-sponsoring a public education talk with OLLI by Dr. Desiree Narango in April, entitled "Native Plants Support Native Bird Populations (and more!)"



Left to right: Barbara Riotte, Therese Burton and Cheryl Pierce.

PHOTO BY KAREN VATNE

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**DEADLINES**

The deadline for all content is **Wednesday, Nov. 22 at 12 p.m.** for the Nov. 29 publication.

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# BFUHS October Elks Student of the Month

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – Bellows Falls Union High School (BFUHS) is proud to announce that Jacob Stockman is our October Elks Student of the Month. Jacob, a senior, is the son of Jamie Stockman of Bellows Falls, Vt.



Jacob Stockman.

PHOTO PROVIDED

and thoughtfully, revising drafts with a concerted effort, striving for precision, creativity, and clarity.

Not only dedicated to his academics, Jake is an active member of the Jesse A. Judd Marilee Huntoon Chapter of the Bellows Falls Union High School National Honor Society. He is a member of the BFUHS Student Council, and a participant in the indoor track and soccer programs. Through his work and dedication at the River Valley Technical Program, Jake earned induction into the National Technical Honor Society, and has served as ambassador for the human services program, giving tours and speaking with middle school students and ninth and 10th graders about the programs at RVTC.

Jake has been a dedicated employee at a local family owned market in Bellows Falls, and has completed community service working with youth football camps, Central Elementary 5K, and others.

Clearly deserving of recognition, BFUHS and the Elks are proud to have Jake as our October Elks Student of the Month.

Jake, a good role model, is a true leader who never hesitates to lend a hand. He comes to class prepared with a positive attitude every day. He is a soft spoken, active listener. When he participates, his connections and interpretations are quite insightful. Jake is honest, humble, and has great integrity. As an honors and advanced placement student, Jake recognizes both his strengths and weaknesses, and upon reflection and practice, he appreciates the value of discipline as a means to manage and prioritize the rigor of his academic assignments, his extracurricular activities, and em-

ployment outside of school, with time reserved for enjoying the simple pleasures of young adult life. He takes responsibility for his own learning, by communicating with teachers and peers on an ongoing basis. As a writer, Jake accepts feedback graciously

# Springfield Rotary Club Stuff-a-Truck

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – The Springfield Rotary Club will be holding a Stuff-a-Truck event on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., in the

Springfield Shopping Plaza, to benefit the Springfield Family Center Food Shelf. Please come and grab a bag and fill it with nonperishable food items

or personal care products, to help those in need this holiday season. The Rotary Club will be set up by Shaw's in the plaza, and hopes to see you there.

# Springfield Area Revolving Loan Fund

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Springfield Regional Development Corporation (SRDC) continues to offer the Springfield Area Revolving Loan Fund, which is a source of debt financing for small and medium-size companies in southern Windsor County, as well as those looking to start a business.

The Springfield Area Revolving Loan Fund

(RLF) utilizes funds from the economic development administration to complement other funding sources in helping area companies to create and retain jobs, as well as stimulate the creation and relocation of new businesses.

SRDC executive director Bob Flint says that the Springfield Area Revolving Loan Fund provides another resource to help businesses in the region. "We have a

tool that can help with financing to drive growth in our region, in partnership with our area lenders," Flint said. He said that the RLF is available to applicants in the 10 towns in the SRDC service region.

For more information about the Springfield Area Revolving Loan Fund, or to get a loan application, please contact Bob Flint at SRDC, bobf@springfieldddevelopment.org or 802-885-3061.

# Stettler joins Foundation Board

**TOWNSHEND, Vt.** – The Grace Cottage Foundation Board of Directors is pleased to welcome David Stettler to the board.

Stettler graduated from Princeton University with a bachelor's degree in politics, and received his master's degree in education leadership from Columbia University's Teachers College. He served as assistant head of school at The Masters School in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. (1997-2005), head of school at Oak Meadow Montessori School in Littleton, Mass. (2005-2011), and head of school at The Fessenden School in West Newton, Mass. (2011-2018).

He has served as treasurer and president of the board of directors for the Association of Independent Schools in New England, and has also been on the board of directors of the Montessori Schools of Massachusetts, and the Mental Health Resource Center in Montclair, NJ. Stettler and his wife Rachel have two grown sons. The Stettlers, now retired, divide their time between Townshend and Portland, Maine. David enjoys hiking, bicycling, and traveling, and is in the process of learning Spanish.

Grace Cottage Foundation was created in 1994, to raise funds for the hospital

and family health clinic. Grace Cottage Foundation's mission is to secure the present and future of Grace Cottage through fundraising, communication, and participation.



David Stettler, new Grace Cottage Foundation Board of Directors member.

PHOTO PROVIDED

**Janet Pace – A Celebration of Life**

Saturday, November 18  
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# Albert DeCell and Christmas trees

BY RON PATCH

802-374-0119  
ronpatch27@gmail.com

Saturday, Nov. 11, I left my place and noticed a tractor-trailer with open sides and top. It was loaded with bound Christmas trees. It got me to thinking.

In high school I worked summers for Albert and

Carne DeCell in Weston. They ran a very successful house painting company. As summer turned to fall, Albert would lay off summer employees, including me. He had just enough interior work to keep his regular men working through the winter.

In November of 1969, Albert kept me on cutting

Christmas trees. Albert had a large Christmas tree farm. I worked with a man named Hart. I don't remember his first name for sure, but it might have been Charlie. Sometimes Charlie and I would get to horsing around. This can happen when you are unsupervised. It began with us

throwing snowballs. Then Charlie chased me and pushed me down in the snow. It was wet under the snow. My buckskin gloves instantly iced over. I was chopping with a hatchet when it flew out of my hand, nearly hitting Charlie. The look on his face was priceless!

Some mornings were very cold with snow on the ground. It didn't take us long to warm up. Physical labor has a way of doing that.

We cut trees all day. Nearby was an open 40-foot trailer. By open, I mean sides and top, like I saw last Saturday. It's a long time ago now, but I remember how we loaded trees. It was important to load as many trees as possible.

Today when you buy a tree, they run it through a mechanism that wraps and compresses the tree down to a smaller diameter. We didn't have such a unit in 1969.

We would lay a course

of trees on the floor of the trailer, butt forward. Then we laid down another course. Then we carefully stepped on branches, compressing the trees down. We did this course after course until the trailer was full. With a little practice we became very good at it. You developed a feel for how much pressure to apply.

When the trailer was fully loaded, the tractor was driven into the woods and hooked up to the trailer. I don't remember now how long it took to cut and load trees onto the trailers, but it kept two men busy most of November and some of December. Albert shipped his trees to the city.

In Londonderry, on Hell's Peak Road, Albert had the Christmas shop. Here, mostly women worked. They made hundreds of Christmas wreaths of all sizes.

I vaguely remember the garland-making machine. Albert had several princess pine pickers in the area.

He always had an ad in the paper, "Buying princess pine." He bought princess pine by the pound. One year when I was younger, I picked princess pine. I think Albert paid me 20 cents per pound.

The garland machine used something like baling twine.

The women would feed the princess pine into this machine, where it was wrapped around the baling twine. It came out the other end as finished garland. Albert sold garland everywhere, including the city. I remember hanging garland around all of the stores in the Londonderry Plaza. Albert had the contract, and probably other contracts I have forgotten.

Albert let me stay in an old farmhouse he owned. I



Christmas postcard, circa 1912. PHOTO PROVIDED BY PAUL COOK



Christmas postcard, circa 1910. PHOTO PROVIDED BY PAUL COOK

think it was on Piper Hill Road. It was a large, drafty farmhouse, but I didn't mind. I was about to turn 18, and Dad couldn't tell me what to do anymore.

Albert and Carne were excellent business people, and kept many people working.

*This week's old saying heard when someone asked when you would arrive: "Between 11 and Thursday."*

## Windham installs solar array

WINDHAM, Vt. - A solar array was recently installed on the town office roof in Windham that will generate enough electricity to pay for the power in the town's three buildings. With an annual production of 20.76 megawatt hours, the array will cover the electrical usage of the town office, the town garage, and the meeting house, including anticipated future heating changes from fossil fuels to green energy.

Installed by Southern Vermont Solar, the solar array will be paid for with federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and a federal energy tax incentive credit. The ARPA funds, which are provided to promote recovery from Covid, allow for a variety of expenditures to benefit communities. The tax incentive specifically supports clean, renewable energy.

Like all Vermont towns, Windham received ARPA funds that were passed through the state government to the towns based on their population. With a little more than 400 residents, Windham received \$118,380. As required by the state, recommendations for the use of the funds were made to the Windham Selectboard by a committee created for that purpose.

"The amount we received seemed like a lot until our committee began thinking about all we would like to do with it," said Mary McCoy, chair of Windham's ARPA Committee. "Part of our mission was to maximize the funds through grants and other means." The solar array is expected to cover the town's GMP bills for 25 years, saving the town an estimated \$120,000.

McCoy said the committee of 10 people was formed in early 2022, and each member had a different project in mind. Over that summer, they agreed on a



Solar array installation on top of Windham town offices. PHOTO PROVIDED

list of projects, and in that autumn, they conducted an online survey asking Windham residents and part-time homeowners to prioritize the projects. During 2023, they began making recommendations to the selectboard, and all recommendations were approved by this September.

In addition to funding the solar array, Windham's ARPA funds are being used to buy protective gear for members of the Windham Volunteer Fire Company, and to ensure that all homes in Windham will be able to connect to DV-Fiber, a nonprofit provider of high-speed internet now installing fiber optic lines in 24 southern Vermont towns. The DV-Fiber designation was matched by another state grant, doubling the ARPA allotment.

The survey showed widespread support for improvements to Windham's meetinghouse. Yet, the 221-year-old building needed far more work than could be paid for, even with the entire amount of Windham's ARPA funds. Cathy Fales, a committee member with a background in municipal facilities, found various grant opportunities related to improving the energy usage of the meetinghouse, its historic preservation, and its use for public events. Some of the ARPA funds were then designated to pursue these opportunities. Fales has already submitted five grant applications, with three accepted so far.

The largest portion of the

town's ARAP funds, about 37%, was set aside for any needed improvements to the meetinghouse that cannot be funded by grants. Two meetings were conducted, one for town leaders and one for all of the town's people, to consider the future of the meetinghouse. More than 150 suggestions were received, and Fales has consolidated this information for planning and grant application purposes.

Smaller amounts of the ARPA funds were recommended and approved to pay an administrator to manage ongoing grants related to road repairs and improvements, to buy an Owl audio-visual system for town meetings, to support the digitalization of town records, and to cover the ARPA committee's administrative costs.

"Right now, the most visible result of the funds is the solar array," said McCoy. "Although the town was divided in the past about locating a wind farm here, there was little opposition to the array or anything else ARPA is funding. This money can help pull us together." She said work on the meetinghouse is expected to continue until its 225th anniversary in 2027. "We all value that building. It is the center of our community and a source of unity."

## "1800 and Froze to Death"

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - On Thursday, Dec. 7, at 6 p.m., join Howard Coffin at the Springfield Town Library for his presentation of "1800 and Froze to Death."

1816 has long been known as the year without summer. Vermonters still call it "1800 and Froze to Death," a year of frosts every month, dark skies, and mysterious lights that caused a widespread belief that a higher power was displeased. In this talk, historian Howard Coffin includes scores of anecdotes on the dark year of failed crops, scarce food, and religious revival. The horrible weather also came in the aftermath of the War of 1812, which produced shortages and an economic crisis. Vermonters coped with the cold year with neighbors helping neighbors. However, some greedy merchants sought to exploit shortages by charging higher and higher prices.

This is a Vermont Humanities Council event hosted by Springfield Town Library, located at 43 Main Street Visit our calendar of events to sign



Archival photograph of winter in Vermont. PHOTO PROVIDED

up at [www.springfieldtown-library.org/calendar](http://www.springfieldtown-library.org/calendar). If you have any questions, please call 802-885-3108.

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# community news

# OPINION

## SEVCA Community Needs Survey

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – Southeastern Vermont Community Action, Inc. (SEVCA) was founded on the belief that all people can be empowered to rise out of poverty, and that the strength of our communities is measured by the quality of life of everyone within them.

Every three years, SEVCA conducts a community assessment to discern current and emerging community needs in the areas of employment, education, income and asset building, housing, health and social behavior development, civic engagement, and com-

munity involvement. The resulting data will be utilized by SEVCA's strategic plan committee, who are working with Bright Minds Consulting, Inc. of Columbus, Ohio, to develop a multi-year workplan. Community action agencies like SEVCA are required by their funders to regularly engage in strategic planning, to assure that their programs and resources align with the needs of the communities they serve.

The survey can be found online at [www.sevca.org](http://www.sevca.org), or by scanning the QR



Scan code to take the survey. PHOTO PROVIDED

code with this article. Paper versions are also available at SEVCA locations in Brattleboro, Westminister, and Springfield. The survey will be live from Nov. 9 – Dec. 8. More information is available by emailing [kdevlin@sevca.org](mailto:kdevlin@sevca.org).

As the region's designated Community Action Agency (CAA), SEVCA works with local and state partners and in coordination with CAAs nationwide to help resolve crises, create opportunities for all people to thrive, build strong, resilient communities, and work toward a more equitable society. SEVCA was founded in May 1965, and has been meeting needs and changing lives in southeastern Vermont for 57 years. More information is available at [www.sevca.org](http://www.sevca.org), [www.facebook.com/SEVCAorg](http://www.facebook.com/SEVCAorg), or by calling 800-464-9951.

Dear Editor,

We wish to thank the folks who sent financial support to help us recover from our \$60,000 flood damage. Everything was very much appreciated. Thanks to all who helped us out repairing the damage and removing debris.

We owned Tapper Plumbing for over 50 years, so some people know me as "Mr. Tapper."

Thank you, Van Guilder Family, Herb and Sandy Ludlow, Vt.

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**  
Subject to space. May be edited for clarity, grammatical errors, and libelous statements. Must be kept under 400 words. Must include name and town for publication. Viewpoints do not necessarily reflect the views of The Vermont Journal & The Shopper.

**AS OF MARCH, 2023, we will charge for POLITICAL LETTERS at the rate of \$75 for 200 words, and \$0.50 per word thereafter.**

## Senior Solutions updates

### Join Senior Solutions Memory Cafés

REGION – A Memory Café is a wonderfully welcoming place for caregivers and their loved ones who are challenged with forms of dementia or other cognitive disorders. It is a safe and comfortable space where caregivers and their loved ones can socialize, listen to music, play games, and enjoy other appropriate activities. Cafés provide mutual support, allow for the exchange of additional resources, and provide an opportunity to enjoy the company of those with common experiences. For more information on these programs or to be included in our upcoming cafés, contact Valerie Stuart at 802-338-6578, or email [memorycafe@seniorsolutionsvt.org](mailto:memorycafe@seniorsolutionsvt.org).

A new Memory Café will be starting in Chester, Vt., on Dec. 7, from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. This will be hosted at St. Luke's in Willard Hall. Parking is in the back, and it is an easy walk to the door. It is open to the public at no cost. If you would like to attend or volunteer as an activity assistant, please contact Joann at [jerenhouse@seniorsolutionsvt.org](mailto:jerenhouse@seniorsolutionsvt.org).

lutionsvt.org, or text/call 802-733-7988. Volunteers will receive a short training session on Friday, Nov. 17, between 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. We ask only that you help one day a month for two hours. The more volunteers we have, the more we can do to make it a wonderful experience for the caregivers and their loved ones. The Memory Cafés will be held on the first Thursday of each month. Snacks and drinks are provided. We look forward to meeting each and every caregiver and loved one.

### Senior Solutions 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held on Nov. 29, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Coffee hour will be from 9-10 a.m. Dr. Renee Pepin, an assistant professor of community and family medicine at Dartmouth's Centers for Health and Aging at the Geisel School of Medicine, will share her insight into the importance of social connectedness. Our staff, volunteers, community partners, and friends will be on hand to share the memories and accomplishments of the past year. We will award our Successful Aging Award in recognition of an outstanding individual who is at least 80 years old and

lives in one of the 46 towns that we serve. We look forward to celebrating our 50 years of service, and to planning many more years of working with community partners to help Vermont adults age successfully. To RSVP, contact the front office at 802-731-9468, or go to [www.seniorsolutionsvt.org](http://www.seniorsolutionsvt.org) and click the RSVP link in the article about our annual meeting.

### Bridges Out of Poverty workshop

The Bridges Out of Poverty workshop hosted by Senior Solutions provides social service providers and community members with key insights into supporting individuals who have previously experienced or are experiencing poverty. Topics include increasing awareness of the differences in economic cultures, and how those differences affect opportunities for success. This workshop is designed for educators, community organizations, law enforcement, health care, and social service providers.

The event takes place Nov. 30, from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., at the American Legion in Chester, Vt. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided. For more information, email [llintner@seniorsolutionsvt.org](mailto:llintner@seniorsolutionsvt.org).

## AI scams can be convincing

REGION – This scam has been in circulation for years: "Hello, Grandpa? It's me, Melissa (or Jimmy or Amanda)." It can take a number of different paths: "I'm in jail and need money," or, "I was in a terrible accident

and I'm in the hospital," or, "I've been kidnapped and they want money." While it goes by the name "Grandparent Scam," you can substitute best friend, family member, or practically any other name for the supposed victim. This is a version of the imposter scam, and it's growing in frequency and sophistication.

In the past, criminals had difficulty replicating the supposed victim's voice, but were clever enough to make their phone calls at strategic times of day such as mealtime or bedtime, when people are distracted or tired. Often the voice of the caller was muffled or unclear, but the message was urgent and required immediate action.

Let's turn the clock forward to 2023 and focus on how things are different. Today the new tool for the criminal is artificial intelligence (AI). A basic definition of AI: computer systems able to perform tasks that normally require human intelligence, such as visual perception, speech recognition, decision-making, and translation between languages. In terms of fraud, AI can search the internet in a matter of minutes and collect all information, including social media posts, photographs, voice sound tracks, and videos from places such as YouTube and TikTok. AI can collect information from databases,

and from persons posting content online. The concern related to AI scams is so great that both the Federal Trade Commission and the FBI issued warnings that, "Artificial Intelligence is no longer a far-fetched idea out of a sci-fi movie. We're living with it, here and now."

For a criminal, it means access to everything you uncover, as well as anything posted on social media, video sharing, and online databases. An audio clip of less than 10 seconds can reveal enough of a person's voice pattern to synthesize their voice. Now the voice and image of a "kidnapping victim" can be replicated for use in a scam. Piecing together profiles from online data can provide criminals with a wealth of personal information to commit scams. Online digital photographic and video images can be used to create a synthetic visual for committing extortion. This is exactly what happened to at least eight senior citizens, according to law enforcement officials in Canada. Over \$200,000 was stolen in three days by a criminal using AI-generated voices from social media. AI adds a new dimension to the phrase "seeing (or hearing) is believing," especially when considering the creation of fake news and social media posts.

Legitimate software companies, security systems, and government agencies are working aggressively to combat the threats. For now, there are steps you can take for self-defense. Update your device operating system and any malware software you use to the most recent version. With audio messages, listen for abnormal voice tones and patterns or unclear speech. Criminals will tug at emotions and use urgency to achieve their goals. Slow down. Tell the person you will call back, then use the time to verify the caller's number. Look for inconsistent details with photos or videos such as incomplete or blurred images; for example, does the person cast a shadow?

If you sense a scam, report it to the FTC ([www.reportfraud.ftc.gov](http://www.reportfraud.ftc.gov)), the FBI ([www.IC3.gov](http://www.IC3.gov)), or your state Attorney General.

*Elliott Greenblott is a retired educator and coordinator of the AARP Vermont Fraud Watch Network.*

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# CHURCH SERVICES

# obituaries

## Paul T. Kane, 1952-2023

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Paul Tyter Kane died on Oct. 21, 2023. He passed peacefully, while being comforted by Jaime Kamel (daughter) and Rodney Stowell (son).

Paul was born Nov. 8, 1952, to Hilda (Wright) Kane of Charlestown, N.H., and Harold Edward (Darb) Kane of North Walpole, N.H. He was born in Bellows Falls, Vt.

Paul was raised in Bellows Falls for the first 11 years of his life. The family moved to Palatka, Fla., where they resided until 1967. Again, for Harold's career, Paul and his family moved to Cumberland, R.I.

After high school, Paul continued his studies in psychology and sociology at Northeastern University (Boston, Mass.), New England College (Henniker, N.H.), and two semesters in Arundel, Sussex, England.

Upon returning to the U.S. and graduating, Paul began his career in social services in South Carolina with the Department of Youth Services.

In 1978, Paul returned to graduate school. He studied at New York Univer-

sity (NYU) in their graduate school of social work. Paul continued studying at Georgia State University (Atlanta) in the counseling program. Paul continued to work in social work/counseling/corrections, and started a business, P.K.'s, in 1988. He married Marie (Madore) Stowell, who predeceased him.

He is survived by his daughter Jaime Kamel, married to Jim Kamel, children Peter, Laura, Sam, and Jake; son Rodney Stowell, married to Dawn Stowell, children Noah, Zander, Eric, and Kaley; and nephew Martin Bartlett.

Visiting Hours will take place on Friday, Nov. 24, from 4-6 p.m., at the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls. A Mass of Christian Burial will take place on Saturday, Nov. 25, at 10 a.m., at St. Charles Church, Cherry Hill in Bellows Falls. Burial will follow at Oak Hill Cemetery.

Arrangements are entrusted to the care of the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls, Vt.

## Robert C. Lynds, 1937-2023

PLYMOUTH, Vt. – Robert Carl Lynds, 86, died peacefully at his home in Plymouth early Wednesday morning, Nov. 1, 2023.

Robert was born on March 21, 1937, in Ludlow, Vt., the son of Laurence and Gladys (Sanderson) Lynds.

Educated in the Plymouth schools, Robert went on to work many years operating heavy equipment for Killington Ski Area. He married Katherine Woodward on June 4, 1967. He served a number of years as a Plymouth Cemetery Commissioner.

Robert is survived by his wife Katherine, a son Joseph C. Lynds, a daughter Elizabeth Lynds, nine grandchildren, a brother Glenn Lynds, and many nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by three brothers John, Arthur, and Ray Lynds; and a sister Janetta Deveau.

A graveside service was held on Saturday, Nov. 4, at the Plymouth Notch Cem-



Robert Lynds, 1937-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

etry in Plymouth, Vt. In lieu of flowers, those wishing may make donations to the Shriners Hospital or the Plymouth Memory Tree.

The Lynds family is extremely grateful for the loving care given to Robert by Almira Blanchard, and the caregivers of Bayada Hospice.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Cabot Funeral Home in Woodstock, Vt. An online guestbook can be found at www.cabotfh.com.

## Stephen Plunkard, 2023

LUDLOW, Vt. – With great sadness we inform you that on Oct. 22, 2023, Stephen Plunkard, at the age of 72, passed away peacefully in the comfort of his home, with his wife close by his side. He leaves behind his wife Becky, his sister Diana, sons Chris and Michael, and his four grandchildren.

He was Born in Romford, England, and moved to the U.S. at the age of 13. He met his wife Becky in Colorado, where they started their journey in life and were happily married for over 50 years. After graduating From LSU school of landscape architecture, they worked their way up north, eventually residing in a quaint town in southern Vermont.

Stephen was a distinguished businessman, landscape architect, urban designer, and a professor over the course of his career. He had an immeasurable passion for his work and his involvement in landscape architecture, was exemplified by what he accomplished in his decorated career and what he gave back to the professional community. He was part of countless organizations, fellowships, and committees that promoted integrity, change, and recognized greatness within the community. Stephen won awards from the American Society of Landscape Architects, American Institute of Architects, Urban Land Institute, National Trust for Historic Preservation, and was invited to the White House as winner of the Small Businessman of the Year for the State of Vermont. At the end of his career, his passion truly lied in teaching, where he was able to work with students at Norwich University and personally instill the fundamentals for future generations of landscape architects and designers.

He was a proud man. Proud to be a husband, father, grandfather and very proud of his British heritage.



Stephen Plunkard, 2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

He took great pleasure in the finer things in life, a good cigar, a nice glass of scotch, a picturesque building, a breathtaking landscape, and nice cars. He never took a beautiful thing for granted. To anyone who knew Stephen, he was always the sharpest guy in the room. He was never a man that was afraid to speak what he truly felt. His sarcasm and dry sense of humor combined with educated and witty responses would often leave one speechless or laughing.

In life he was an amazing father that tried to be everywhere at once, from being a boy scout leader, to coaching and sponsoring sports teams while his kids were young, all while running a successful business. As a father, it was important to him to instill values in his children of working hard, being a good person, having a big heart, and putting family first. It was never hard for him to tell you how proud he was of you and what you had become.

It was important for him to be a great man and he was. He will truly be missed by all.

The family will be holding a Celebration of Life ceremony on Dec. 2, from 3-6 p.m., at Calcutta's Restaurant at the Fox Run Golf Course in Ludlow, Vt. All are welcome at this Celebration of Life, but RSVPs would be greatly appreciated and can be sent to celebrate.s.plunkard@gmail.com.

## Mary Jane Tetreault, 1955-2023

PERKINSVILLE, Vt. – It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Mary Jane Tetreault on Nov. 5, 2023, at her home in Perkinville, Vt.

She was born on Dec. 3, 1955, to Leslie and Eleanor (Barnes) Spencer in Springfield, Vt. She attended school in Perkinville, and graduated from Springfield High School in 1973. She went on to study nursing at the Thompson School of Nursing in Brattleboro, Vt.

Mary Jane was first married to Alexander Chadwick in June of 1979, and then second to Jeffrey Tetreault in October of 2002. Mary Jane's life work was caring for others. First, as a nurse, she cared for patients at the Springfield Hospital. Later, she cared for geriatric patients at several local nursing homes. Lastly, she was the primary caregiver for her husband Jeffrey, and then her mom.

She is survived by her sister Nancy Bladyka (Paul); nephews Tyler (Keturah Hammond), and Jesse (Michelle Anariba) and their daughter Paulina; her niece Crystal Tetreault; friends and caregivers Amanda Knight and Stephan Cota and family; feline friend Zipper and canine friend Ace; and many cousins.



Mary Jane Tetreault, 1955-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

She was predeceased by her parents, her sister Victoria Best, and both husbands Alex Chadwick and Jeffrey Tetreault.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, Nov. 24, at the Community Church in Perkinville, Vt., at 1 p.m., to be followed by a graveside service at the Grout Cemetery in Perkinville, followed by visiting and refreshments at the church.

Her family is grateful for the love and care that Mary Jane received from her hospice team at Bayada. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Lucy MacKensie Humane Society, P.O. Box 702, Brownsville, VT 05037, www.lucymac.org.

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

## ASCUTNEY, VT.

**Brownville Community United Methodist Church, 66 Brownville-Hartland Rd.**

Sunday service is 9:30 a.m., held in the church with reduced occupancy or streaming online at [www.facebook.com/brownvillecommunitychurch](http://www.facebook.com/brownvillecommunitychurch) and [www.brownvilleumc-vt.org](http://www.brownvilleumc-vt.org).

## CHESTER, VT.

**Chester Baptist Church, 162 Main St.**

Worship is Sundays at 10:30 a.m. For more information, including online streaming, go to [www.chesterbaptist.org](http://www.chesterbaptist.org).

## LONDONDERRY, VT.

**First Baptist Church, 62 Crescent St., S. Londonderry**

Worship service is Sunday at 10 a.m. at the church. Services will still be live streamed at [www.firstbaptistslondonerryvt.org/streaming-worship.html](http://www.firstbaptistslondonerryvt.org/streaming-worship.html). For more information, visit [www.firstbaptistlondonerryvt.org](http://www.firstbaptistlondonerryvt.org) or call 802-856-7266.

## SPRINGFIELD, VT.

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

Join our worship service every Sunday at 10 a.m. Women's Study Group meets on Tuesdays at 6 p.m., and Mens Study Group meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. All are welcome! For more information, check out Facebook @PrecisionValleyBaptistChurch.

**Springfield Assembly of God, 269 River St.**

Sunday morning service is 10 a.m. Evening service is 6 p.m. Go to [www.facebook.com/Springfield-Assembly-of-God-156583214402910](http://www.facebook.com/Springfield-Assembly-of-God-156583214402910) for links and more information.

**Springfield United Methodist Church, 58 Harvard St.**

Worship begins at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. Springfield United Methodist Church welcomes everyone! The church can be reached at 802-885-3456.

## WALPOLE, N.H.

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

Sunday services are at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary, or via Zoom. For Zoom links, please call 603-756-4075. For more information, go to [www.walpolenucc.org](http://www.walpolenucc.org) or [www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalWalpoleNH](http://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalWalpoleNH).

## WESTMINSTER, VT.

**First Congregational Church of Westminster, 3470 US Route 5**

Sunday services are at 10 a.m. in our historic church and on Zoom. For more information, call 802-518-0321, email us at [westminstercongonline@gmail.com](mailto:westminstercongonline@gmail.com), or find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/First-Congregational-Church-of-Westminster-Inc-1506511432980057](http://www.facebook.com/First-Congregational-Church-of-Westminster-Inc-1506511432980057).

## WESTON, VT.

**The Old Parish Church, 644 Main St.**

A diverse, informal, and welcoming congregation. Sunday service begins at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. For more information, contact Jon Bliss, minister, at 802-824-4452 or email [easthillfarm@vermontel.net](mailto:easthillfarm@vermontel.net).

**CHURCH SERVICES:** We run Church Services on an alternating schedule. Subject to space. All services are posted online at [www.VermontJournal.com](http://www.VermontJournal.com).

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## Marion E. Tenney, 1931-2023

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Marion Tenney passed away on Nov. 4, 2023, in Springfield. Marion was born on Sept. 8, 1931, in Grafton, Vt., to Horace and Rosie (Wyman) Whidden, one of nine children, and graduated from Rockpoint Girls Academy in May 1950. She married James W.G. Tenney on Aug. 12, 1950; together they had four children. Marion enjoyed hunting, fishing, and later in life playing bingo and being with her bingo friends. She is survived by one brother Frank (Joan) of Florida and Vermont; one sister Iverna of Chester; three daughters Joyce (Ed) of Athens, Susan (David) of Grafton, and Addie (Charles) of Athens. She is also survived by nine grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

Marion was predeceased by her husband James, her three brothers and three sisters, one son David, and one great-grandson Roger. Honoring her wishes, services will be private at Houghtonville Cemetery in Grafton.

Arrangements are entrusted to the care of the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls, Vt.

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# calendar

## LEGAL NOTICES

**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.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield United Methodist Church is having a bake sale during the farmers market on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. We look forward to seeing you at the Springfield UMC, at 10 Valley Street, Springfield, Vt. Everyone is welcome.

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.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – The Charlestown Senior Center will host a Christmas Bazaar and Cookie Walk on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. There will be beautiful items for gifting, or just for you. Come for our famous Cookie Walk, and stay for soup and a sandwich. There is hot chocolate and also free coffee. Look around at our gifts and Christmas items. Take home baked goodies. We have many gift baskets for the raffle. We also have a hand made quilt to raffle off. Come take a chance. Winning tickets will be drawn on the day of the Bazaar at 11:30 a.m.

**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.

**NOV. 23 –**  
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Toonerville Trail Turkey Trot 5k Run and Walk will be held on Nov. 23, starting at 9 a.m., at the Toonerville Trail. This event is a fundraiser for Meals on Wheels of Greater Springfield, and Springfield High School cross country. The registration fee is discounted if you register in advance. To register, go to [www.runlikeardly.com/races/toonerville-trail-turkey-trot](http://www.runlikeardly.com/races/toonerville-trail-turkey-trot).

**NOV. 24 –**  
WEATHERSFIELD, Vt. – Join us for the annual post-Thanksgiving Community Contra Dance and Social at the Weathersfield Center Meetinghouse, 2579 Weathersfield Center Road, on Friday, Nov. 24, from 6:30-10 p.m. There is a beginner session at 6:40 p.m. Dancing will go from 7-9 p.m., with a potluck and snacks to follow. No special clothing, footwear, or experience is required. Bring your own beer, wine, seltzer, or whatever you fancy. Legendary caller Dudley Laufman will guide everyone through the dances, with live music provided by Naomi Morse.

**DEC. 3 –**  
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – St. Mark's Church on Fairground Road will hold a free organ recital on Sunday, Dec. 3. We will accept donations to be given to Kurn Hattin Homes, for the children's Christmas gifts. Karen Engdahl from Springfield will perform a variety of musical renditions. Karen has lived in Springfield for 40 years, and has taught piano to many folks, and played the organ for 30 years at Baptist Church in North Springfield. Even though she is retired, she still enjoys playing for several events, including senior day care.

Refreshments will be served following the program. Please join us for a festive, sing along afternoon.

**SUNDAYS –**  
BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Bellows Falls Loyal Order of Moose will be hosting a community breakfast on the first and third Sunday of every month downstairs at the Bellows Falls Moose Lodge, 59 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls, from 8-10 a.m. All you can eat for a minimal cost.

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

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

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Overeaters Anonymous 12-Step Recovery Program is Mondays, from 7-8 p.m., at Parks Place, 44 School Street Extension in Bellows Falls. The program is free. For more information go to [www.oa.org](http://www.oa.org).

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

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

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – On Mondays at 6:15 p.m., join Mikayla for a yoga class. Contact Lori Wright at 603-401-8123 or visit [www.dgbodyworks.com](http://www.dgbodyworks.com) for more information. Private classes are available.

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

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Free Gentle Hatha Yoga classes for ages 50 and over are held on Mondays from 10-11 a.m., at the Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street. All equipment is provided.

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

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Senior Solutions is again sponsoring two Fall Prevention Tai Chi classes in the Great Hall, on Pearl Street in Springfield, on Tuesdays. The advanced class will meet from 9:30-10:30 a.m. The beginner class will meet from 10:40-11:40 a.m. When practiced regularly, Tai Chi not only helps to lower the risk of falling, but also improves concentration, leg strength, balance and coordination, reduces joint pain and stress, and builds a sense of belonging. For more information or to register, contact Sue Rubel at [suerubl@aol.com](mailto:suerubl@aol.com), or Sophia Blanchard at [SBlanchard@seniorsolutionsvt.org](mailto:SBlanchard@seniorsolutionsvt.org).

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

**WEDNESDAYS –**  
LUDLOW, Vt. – Cardio & Sculpt, Wednesdays at

9:30 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

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

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

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

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

GRAFTON, Vt. – A free playgroup for children from newborns to age 5 will be held at Grafton Elementary School on Thursday mornings, from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Activities will include songs, games, and arts and crafts. Contact Heather with any questions at 802-843-4792.

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

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 –**  
CHESTER, Vt. – The Gassetts Grange holds their dance on the first Saturday 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.

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

**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](http://www.aavt.org) or call your local hotline at 802-802-2288 and join a meeting. You are not alone.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

### Town of Plymouth Public Notice of Hearing Before the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment

A Public Hearing before the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Town of Plymouth will be held on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building Meeting Room located at 68 Town Office Road, Plymouth, VT, to consider an application for the Conditional Use Permit for:

Applicant: Shipman, Henry  
Shipman, Cheryl

Location: 7867 Route 100 South  
Plymouth, VT 05056

Parcel id: 000929

Proposal: Remove old farmhouse and replace it with a modern cabin

Application: #2023-30

### 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.

Appy to: Morgan Wilbur, Town Administrator, PO Box 180, Grafton, VT 05146, or by email at [townadmin@graffontvt.org](mailto:townadmin@graffontvt.org)

### TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD HELP WANTED TRANSFER STATION/RECYCLING FACILITY MANAGER

The Town of Springfield, VT is seeking an experienced individual to fill a full-time Transfer Station/Recycling Facility Manager position at the Transfer Station/Recycling Facility. This position is the first line supervisor over the operations and maintenance of the Transfer Station/Recycling Facility. The Facility Manager is responsible for the supervision and direction of all Town employees and volunteers at the Facility and manages daily operations of the Facility. The Facility Manager is responsible for the basic maintenance and safety of the Facility. Applicant must have proven ability to lead and supervise employees both by example and direction and possess the knowledge of materials, equipment and techniques commonly used at the Transfer Station/Recycling Facility. Applicant must have proven knowledge of general book-keeping skills. Applicant must have a High School or (GED) Degree and/or experience which demonstrates the ability to carry out the duties of the job. Pay Grade 18, Pay Scale \$20.96 - \$22.67 per hour. This is an exempt position with an excellent benefits package. Apply at the Human Resources Office, 96 Main Street, (802) 885-2104 ([tosh@vermontel.net](mailto:tosh@vermontel.net)). Applications and a complete job description can be found at [springfieldvt.gov/jobs](http://springfieldvt.gov/jobs). The Town of Springfield is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

### TOWN OF ANDOVER NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Town of Andover Select Board will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 27, 2023 for the purpose of receiving comment on the reclassification of Markham Mountain Road (TH #54), Israel Road (TH #45) & Marsh Cross Road (TH #33) currently Class 3 Town Roads. The site visits will begin at 3:00 p.m. at Markham Mountain Road. The hearing will convene immediately following the site visits at the Andover Town Office.

Dated at Andover, Vermont this 5th day of November, 2023  
Jeanette Haight, Town Clerk

### Town of Plymouth, Vermont Lister Position Available

The Town of Plymouth has an opening for a part-time Lister. Applicant must be a resident of the Town of Plymouth. This position is approximately 15-20 hours a week with a flexible schedule. Initially, there will be in-depth, outside, training provided to maximize Lister's time with a review within six (6) months.

- A Lister plays an important role in the Town as it is the official who is charged with determining the value of real property in the Town on which the Select Board will set a tax rate.
- Listers will appraise all taxable property in the Town at the fair market value. The estimated fair market value is the price that the property will bring in the open market when offered for sale.
- Listers must set all real property in the Grand List at one percent of its listed value on April 1 of the year of its appraisal.
- Listers will provide an annual abstract of the Grand List to the Town Clerk for forwarding to the Vermont Department of Taxes Division of Property Valuation and Review. Timely filing is necessary for the receipt of State Highway and Education Aid.
- Listers hold grievance hearings for tax payers who wish to grieve their appraised value. The decisions of the Listers may be appealed to the Board of Civil Authority, and the Listers may appear before the Board to defend the appraised values in question.
- The Listers sit as part of the Board of Tax Abatement to determine whether a taxpayer may have his or her taxes abated.
- Many of the Listers' job responsibilities have requirements concerning timing, notification, and format, as well as substance, which must be strictly adhered to. Towns have lost appeals because procedural details were overlooked. You must carefully read, understand and follow the statutes.
- Assist the public by answering questions and explaining everything from the valuation process to homestead/house site values as well as the appeal process.
- Be able to unravel complex questions regarding mapping and parcel data.
- Data organization and filing from appeals, bills, purchase requests, etc.
- Building permit data entry and spreadsheets when the CAMA System AssessPro is in place.
- Be able to find a value for each parcel in ownership of multiple parcels.
- Correspondence
- Stay up-to-date by attending classes, seminars and webinars.
- Knowledge of NEMRC, VPIe, word, and excel a plus, but not mandatory.

Please submit your resume and/or a completed application to the Plymouth Town Clerk's Office at 68 Town Office Road, Plymouth, Vermont 05056 or email [clerk@plymouthvt.org](mailto:clerk@plymouthvt.org). Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The Town of Plymouth is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



# classifieds

## Featured pet: Sloan



Meet Sloan today.

PHOTO PROVIDED

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. — There is no greater love than that from a coonhound, and Sloan is waiting to show you all the love. Sloan is a long-legged, 3-month old hound mix that is an active boy longing for a loving home, and we have reduced his adoption fee to make that happen even faster. We are open Wednesday-Saturday, from 12-4 p.m., for walk-ins, or call 802-885-3997 for more information.

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

### 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.

### 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

MOUNT HOLLY, Vt. — Pella 3 wide casement fixed cntr. RO. 63 3/4 X 41 3/4. Interior Shaker style 4 panel doors 2X6 and 2X4

walls, French door, pocket door without framing. Call for RO sizes 802-259-2239.

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.

### GUNS WANTED

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

### HELP WANTED

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.

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](http://www.chester-andoverfamilycenter.org). Email resume to [cafc302@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### RON PATCH

Buying Antiques

Photographs, Military, Clocks, Guns, Coins

802-374-0119

## P&M Auto & Service

Quality Used Cars and Trucks and Auto Services

Bankruptcy • Bad Credit  
First Time • Divorce

Ask about our Guaranteed Credit Approval

### Specials of the Week



**2015 Dodge Ram**  
Diesel  
4 Door  
Fully Loaded  
Cruise Control  
4x4



**2016 Kia Sedona EX**  
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

### BROOKVIEW APARTMENTS

Bugbee Street, White River Junction, VT

#### Accepting Applications for 2 Bedroom Units

Utilities, snow, trash removal included. Laundry facility on premises for tenant use only.

USDA guidelines do apply

Call or Write to:  
THM Property Management  
129 Lincoln Ave.  
Manchester Center, VT 05255  
802-362-4663 or 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

**THM**  
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SERVICES  
129 Lincoln Avenue, Suite A • Manchester Center, VT 05255  
(802) 362-4663 • Fax (802) 362-6330 • TDD 1-800-545-1833 EXT. 326 OR 175

### ADAIR HEIGHTS APARTMENTS

BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT

#### AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY TWO-BEDROOM UNIT

Utilities, Snow & Trash Removal Included  
Laundry Facility on Premises for Tenants Only  
USDA Guidelines Do Apply

Call or Write to:  
THM Property Management  
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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY  
THM is an equal opportunity provider and employer

### Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

### King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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| R | U | L | E | F | A | N | C | I | F | U | L |
| E | L | L | B | A | S | I | E | A | S | A |   |
| R | U | F | F | E | D | U | P | A | C | E | R |
|   | E | Y | R | E | O | P | E | R | A |   |   |
| C | U | M | I | N | A | F | R | O |   |   |   |
| A | R | A | A | N | N | U | A | L | F | E | E |
| T | I | L | R | E | E | D | L | O | V | E |   |
| S | S | E | D | O | W | D | O | P | A | L |   |

# 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

Workshops, details/register <http://galleryvault.org>

Painting the Winter Landscape in Watercolor w/ Rob O'Brien 1/13/24  
Perspective Drawing Basics w/Chris Mix (Zoom) 2/4/24  
Pet Portraits w/ Mindy Fisher 2/24/24  
Pine Needle Basket w/ Irene Dizes 3/8/24 & 3/9/24  
Wire-wrapped Pendant w/ Thomas Alyxander 4/6/24  
Flowers in Texture & Color w/ Julie Crabtree 4/27/24

Current Shows: Wonders of Fall by VAULT Artists,  
Open Wall- Autumn Color/Winter White  
(01/24/24 - TFN - 13)

## Builders/Contractors

### HAMMER FOR HIRE LLC

"Not just for bangin' nails."

We handle a variety of projects, from home repairs, restorations on up to full renovations, and new construction too. Our clients can expect professionalism, proficiency, customer care, and quality. Call or email today at 802-376-3275 [edwin.mortensen@gmail.com](mailto:edwin.mortensen@gmail.com).

Follow us on Instagram @nedthehammer  
(11/22/23 - 52)

### PETER JORDAN CONSTRUCTION

Over 25 years of experience in all phases of construction. Framing, finish carpentry, custom showers and tile work, hardwood flooring, decks, and siding. Fully insured and registered with the State of Vermont. Lead Paint Certified. Located in Proctorsville. 802-558-5267.  
(11/15/23 - 13)

### NEW ENGLAND HOME BUILDING AND REMODEL

802-779-3414 — Located in Weston, VT

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

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

## Chiropractor

### FOUR SEASONS CHIROPRACTIC, PC

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

## Masonry

### DRC STONE DESIGN

Specializing in all Stone Masonry Applications including veneer, walls, patios, walkways. Fully insured. Free estimates. 32 years experience. Contact Dan Field at 802-384-0122 or [stoneart49@gmail.com](mailto:stoneart49@gmail.com) or visit [drcstonedesign.com](http://drcstonedesign.com).  
(11/22/23 - 13)

## Okemo Valley TV

### LOCAL PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS THIS WEEK

- Yoh Theatre Players: Tech Week & Performance
- A Seed for the Future: Access to Farmland in VT
- Gov. Scott Weekly Press Conference
- Talk with Paula: Addiction Recovery
- West River Guy weather forecasts

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 - TFN - 13)



# arts & entertainment

## FOLA performance of "Love Letters"

LUDLOW, Vt. – On Saturday, Nov. 18, at 7 p.m., Friends of Ludlow Auditorium (FOLA) will present the play "Love Letters," at the Heald Auditorium in Ludlow Town Hall. It will star Linda and George Thomson, who previously performed the production to a standing-room-only audience in Rutland.

"Love Letters" is a heartwarming and timeless play that has touched the hearts of audiences around the world for decades. Written by A.R. Gurney, this play is a poignant exploration of love, friendship, and the enduring power of the written word. "Love Letters" tells the story of Andrew Makepeace Ladd III and Melissa Gardner, two lifelong friends whose connection is primarily sustained through letters they write to each other. Through their correspondence, the audience gets an intimate glimpse into their lives, struggles,

and the evolving nature of their relationship. This simple yet profound narrative resonates with people of all ages and backgrounds.

The themes explored in "Love Letters" are universal and enduring. Love, friendship, ambition, and the passage of time are topics that resonate with everyone. The play's ability to touch the audience's emotions and provoke self-reflection is a testament to its enduring relevance.

In our modern age, where communication has become increasingly digital and fleeting, "Love Letters" serves as a reminder of the beauty and power of the handwritten word. It reminds us of the depth and sincerity that can be conveyed through personal letters, which is something that can be easily forgotten in our fast-paced lives. "Love Letters" is a play that speaks to the heart and soul of its audience. It's a

production that transcends time, and continues to captivate and move people with its beautiful, heartfelt narrative. Whether you're a seasoned theatergoer, or someone looking for a meaningful and emotional night out, attending a performance of "Love Letters" is an experience you won't want to miss. So, mark your calendars and embrace the opportunity to be swept away by this enduring and enchanting play.

The play is free and open to everyone. Donations are appreciated, and will be forwarded to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Disease in honor of Janet Pace, longtime secretary and founding member of FOLA, who recently passed away from Parkinson's. For information, call 802-855-8883 or visit [www.fola.us](http://www.fola.us).

## Art show introduces transparent pricing

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Canal Street Art Gallery presents the Art For All Seasonal Group Show, sharing the gifts from the many artists of this region and marking the gallery's seventh year. The show is curated to be reflective of what artists are currently creating, with a mission to make art appreciation accessible and affordable to all.

The Art For All Seasonal Group Show opens Nov. 17, and is on view through Jan. 6. Join the gallery for Third Friday Gallery Night in historic downtown Bellows Falls, Vt., from 5-7 p.m., on Nov. 17, to celebrate and meet the artists. All gallery events are free and open to the public; for wheelchair accessibility, call 802-289-0104.

This year's show includes artwork by 23 artists: Penelope Arms, Taffi Brown, Jean Can-

non, Spaulding Dunbar, Len Emery, Jaqueline Evans, Nancy Fitz-Rapalje, Lesley Heathcote, Medora Hebert, Deedee Jones, Theresa Karinski, Carol Keiser, Charlotte Lacoste, Patricia Magrosky, Jeanne McMahan, Pat McPike, MC Noyes, Phyllis Odessey, Phyllis Rosser, Roxy Rubel, Gretchen Seifert, and Marianne Shaugnessy.

The Art For All Seasonal Group Show offers affordable, easy to fall in love with artworks. This year, the show introduces transparent pricing. Each artist gives a price for the artwork, and a price for the frame. The gallery takes its commission percentage on the artwork price only, in an effort to help artists with rising framing costs. Identifying labels also show the amount the artist is paid from the sale. The use of transparent pricing for the Art For All Seasonal Group Show is to make

the purchase of original art even more accessible, user friendly, and easily understood.

This holiday season, Canal Street Art Gallery announces the reintroduction of its sliding commission scale by taking a lower percentage on artwork priced under \$200. This effort makes art more affordable, and directly supports the artists. The gallery also continues to consign new inventory from its 34 represented artists of unframed works for sale in its flat file.

Canal Street Art Gallery is located at 23 Canal Street, in historic downtown Bellows Falls, Vt., and is open Tuesday-Saturday, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information about the Art For All Seasonal Group Show or Canal Street Art Gallery, go to [www.canalstreetartgallery.com](http://www.canalstreetartgallery.com), call Mike at 802-289-0104, or email [artinfo@canalstreetartgallery.com](mailto:artinfo@canalstreetartgallery.com).

## MSA 35th Anniversary Celebration

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – On Saturday, Nov. 18, from 5-7 p.m., the community is invited to celebrate Main Street Arts' 35th anniversary. The event is free and open to the public.

A multimedia exhibit, titled "All Through the Years," will feature paintings, puppets, and a slideshow of historic photographs of Saxtons River and Main Street Arts (MSA). There will also be an interactive timeline encouraging visitors to add their own experiences.

In addition, there will be

homemade sweet and savory finger foods, wine and beer, entertainment, and an opportunity to learn more about MSA and its current and future offerings.

The entertainment will feature performances by MSA's Children's Chorus, as well as veteran performers singing songs from shows such as "Kiss Me Kate" and "HMS Pinafore." They will be accompanied on piano by Maryann McArdle.

"This party will celebrate friendships, giving us the opportunity to reconnect

with the past and meet those new to the community," said Anne Manner-McLarty, a member of the party planning committee. "Come to share a story, revisit a fond memory, and experience how Main Street Arts fosters wellness and connection."

Main Street Arts began in 1988. Located in Saxtons River, it soon grew to be a beloved place where members of the community came together through the arts. Over the years, old and young people have gathered for parades, dinners, music, classes, and theater.

MSA's mission is to be a catalyst for arts and community, fostering creative expression through artistic

experiences, accessible to all. In recent months, the MSA board and new program director Ashley Storrow have been hard at work addressing building renovations, and introducing new free or low-cost programs for families, teens, adults, and older Vermonters.

MSA has fostered collaborations with Senior Solutions, Greater Falls Connections, Rockingham Free Public Library, the WNESU, and many performers, artists, and teachers from around Vermont.

Currently, MSA offers 14 programs in the areas of performing arts (music, dance, and theater), wellness, and community events.

For more information about the party or making a donation to support MSA, please visit [www.mainstreetarts.org](http://www.mainstreetarts.org), or email [info@mainstreetarts.org](mailto:info@mainstreetarts.org).

## Argentinian duo Lerner and Moguilevsky to perform

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts presents Argentinian duo César Lerner and Marcello Moguilevsky's unique musical fusion of klezmer, tango, jazz, and South American folk music at Next Stage on Saturday, Dec. 2, at 7:30 p.m.

"Lerner and Moguilevsky are masters of their craft, threading various cultural ideas together into something new and exciting," says Keith Marks, executive director of Next Stage Arts. "Bringing an artist to Putney from Argentina is an exciting opportunity. The thought that we're bringing artists

from around the world to our region feels positive for our community."

For over 40 years, César Lerner and Marcello Moguilevsky have been creating their unique musical fusion of klezmer, tango, jazz, and South American folk music.

César Lerner is an Argentinian composer, pianist, accordion player, and percussionist. Internationally renowned, he has composed the music for some of the most successful films in Argentina. For over 20 years, he has been directing "Drum Circle," a platform for inclusion through music in areas of social services, art, and education.

Marcelo Moguilevsky is a multi-instrumentalist musician (clarinet, bass clarinet, soprano sax, recorder, harmonica, and piano), composer, singer, and teacher. Since 2011, he has been director of the music department of the National Fund and professor of musical language in fine arts of the Universidad Nacional de La Plata in Buenos Aires. This performance is supported in part by the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, and by AARP Vermont.

Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, Vt. Tickets are discounted in advance at [www.nextstagearts.org](http://www.nextstagearts.org). There is also a livestream option. Next Stage will provide a beer, wine, and cocktail cash bar. For more information, call 802-387-0102 or visit the website above.

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**DERK BEARDMORE**  
[beardmorepainting802@gmail.com](mailto:beardmorepainting802@gmail.com)

**BLACK ROCK STEAKHOUSE**  
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 Gift Certificates Available

**Early Bird Specials**  
**\$20.00** **\$16.00**  
 SHRIMP & SCALLOPS BROILED OR FRIED 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm  
 JR. PRIME RIB  
 Monday - Friday. Excludes Holidays

All Meals are Served with House Salad, Caesar Salad, or Veggie of the Day

**American Legion Post #37**  
 42 Rockingham St.  
 Bellows Falls, VT  
 802-463-9700

**FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER**  
**5:00 PM TO 7:00 PM**  
**November 17, 2023**

**Chicken Broccoli Alfredo w/ Brownie Sundae**

Hosted by the Sons of the American Legion

**\$15.00/person**  
 Reservations until 6:00 PM

Cmdr. Pete Squires & the SAL



The MSA Children's Chorus rehearsing.

PHOTO PROVIDED

**Weekly SUDOKU**  
 by Linda Thistle

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 |   |   | 3 |   |   |   |   | 7 |
|   |   | 8 | 7 |   |   | 4 | 1 |   |
|   | 4 |   |   | 6 |   |   | 3 |   |
|   | 1 | 3 | 8 |   |   |   | 5 |   |
|   |   | 7 |   | 9 |   |   |   | 6 |
| 5 |   |   | 7 |   | 2 |   |   |   |
| 1 |   |   | 9 |   |   |   |   | 5 |
|   |   | 2 | 6 |   | 1 | 8 |   |   |
|   | 8 |   |   | 4 |   |   |   | 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**

**ACROSS**

1 Mausoleum  
 5 "Born Free" lioness  
 9 Branch  
 12 Ornamental jug  
 13 Jupiter counterpart  
 14 Sheepish remark  
 15 Famed diarist  
 17 Squeak stopper  
 18 Historic times  
 19 Grown-up  
 21 Town square  
 24 Tizzy  
 25 Occupy the throne  
 26 Imaginary  
 30 Right angle  
 31 Count with an orchestra  
 32 Simile center  
 33 Bloated, in a way  
 35 Computer brand  
 36 Literary Jane  
 37 Puccini work  
 38 Curry spice  
 40 Roundish do  
 42 Palindromic constellation  
 43 Yearly charge  
 48 Up to  
 49 Oboe insert  
 50 Cupid's realm  
 51 Compass dir.

**DOWN**

1 Earl Grey, e.g.  
 2 Have  
 3 Gents  
 4 Light wind  
 5 Poet Pound  
 6 Meadows  
 7 Day light  
 8 With suspicion, as a look  
 9 Complete reversal  
 10 Banister  
 11 Beer ingredient  
 16 Monk's title  
 20 Cato's 502  
 21 Get ready, briefly  
 22 Humdinger  
 23 Like the Supremes and the Pointer Sisters  
 24 Use scissors  
 26 Lose color  
 27 Tempe sch.  
 28 Addict  
 29 Zhivago's love  
 31 Novelist  
 34 Memo letters  
 35 Lunar program  
 37 Mouths (Lat.)  
 38 Felines  
 39 "The Haj" author  
 40 From the start  
 41 Elmer of cartoons  
 44 "The Matrix" role  
 45 Dandy guy  
 46 Actress  
 47 Mendes  
 47 Moray, for one

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Journal, LLC is a member of the Vermont Press Association



# holiday happenings

## Springfield Thanksgiving Farmers Market

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – As you prepare for the holidays, be sure to stop in at the Thanksgiving Farmers Market on Saturday, Nov. 18, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the United Methodist Church in downtown Springfield, Vt.

Our vendors offer everything you need to make this

an unforgettable holiday. For the table, choose fall vegetables, natural meats, free-range eggs, artisan breads, baked goods and pastries, fudge, holiday pies, and stunning floral arrangements.

For your gift-giving, choose from authentic batik

clothing and accessories, beeswax candles, unique wooden gifts, fabric creations, home and holiday décor, honey, jams, jellies, pickles and relishes, hand-crafted wooden kitchen accessories, unique gifts of art, and a full range of maple products.

## Ludlow Streetscapes Holiday Wreath Fundraiser

LUDLOW, Vt. – Volunteers of Ludlow Streetscapes are excited to announce that they are having a Holiday Wreath Fundraiser on Saturday, Nov. 18, in front of Brewfest Beverage Co. on Main Street in downtown Ludlow, starting at 10 a.m. The 16-inch wreaths will also be decorated with a bow, giving a nod to the winter greens hanging baskets the organization provides on the decorative lampposts that adorn the downtown corridor during the winter season. The sale will continue as weather permits and while supplies last.

Over 20 years ago, a group of volunteers worked together to plant a few trees in the village and town. As the scope of planting expanded, so did ideas and plans on how they could positively impact the community. 2023 marks the 20th anniversary of officially titling the group “Ludlow Streetscapes, Inc.” By creating a nonprofit



Get your holiday wreath. STOCK PHOTO

status to make donations tax deductible and holding community events to raise money for fixtures and decorative features, they felt it would ensure a look of vitality to the town and village and foster a sense of pride in its appearance.

Most known for the decorative hanging baskets and bridge hayracks, the group, which has at times struggled to maintain these commitments, is experiencing a spark of new energy. They hope to not only continue these decorations, but honor

past accomplishments by revitalizing those works that are now in need of some attention. Funds raised by the wreaths will go towards Streetscapes’ efforts of making Ludlow a beautiful place to live, work, and play.

Volunteers are also planning to have some refreshments available to warm you up. They invite everyone to stop by and learn more about the organization directly from folks that are giving their time and energy to its cause. A huge thank you to the William Raveis Vermont Properties Team for sponsoring this event. If you are not in need of a wreath or able to stop by on Nov. 18, but would like to learn more about Ludlow Streetscapes, please visit [www.ludlowstreetscapes.com](http://www.ludlowstreetscapes.com).

## BRGNS Holiday Gift Program

LUDLOW, Vt. – The holiday season is close at hand, and many folks look forward to planning time with family, friends, and celebrations. However, not all our neighbors are so lucky, and many do struggle to keep adequate food on the table, heat in the house, and holiday gifts for their children.

Black River Good Neighbor Services (BRGNS) in Ludlow helps those who need a helping hand each year with food and children’s gifts through its Holiday Gift Program, reaching out to over 100 adults and children with holi-

day food and gifts.

To participate in the Holiday Gift Program, an application is required. If you or someone you know needs assistance this season, please call Krey at 802-228-3663. Applications are available at the thrift store, food shelf, and at [www.brgn.org](http://www.brgn.org). The deadline for submitting an application is Friday, Nov. 24.



Give a give this holiday season. STOCK PHOTO

BRGNS, located at 37B Main Street, Ludlow, serves the towns and villages of Ludlow, Cavendish, Proctorsville, Plymouth, Mount Holly, and Belmont.

## 2023 Generosity Fair

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – Nonprofit organizations associated with the greater Rockingham area will be gathering on Saturday, Nov. 25, from 3:30-5:30 p.m., at the 24 Main Street Community Building in Saxtons River, to showcase their activities and provide the opportunity to turn your generosity into meaningful holiday gift-giving. The public is invited to attend to learn more about charitable work done near and far by those living in our area. The Gen-

erosity Fair has been organized by the 24 Main Street Community Building and Anne Manner-McLarty, a nonprofit consultant who now lives in Saxtons River.

Please join us and consider making donations in the name of your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers. For each donation made, attendees will receive a gift card provided by the nonprofit organizations, and an ornament will be placed on the holiday tree inside the community

building. Some organizations will have other items for sale, and benefits for different levels of giving. Light snacks and general holiday cheer will be shared with all.

Please remember to bring a checkbook or cash, as not all organizations accept credit cards in person or through online giving. You may want to attend the Generosity-TEA service before the fair. Visit [www.mainstreetarts.org/come-for-tea.html](http://www.mainstreetarts.org/come-for-tea.html) for more information.

## Next Stage Holiday Show

PUTNEY, Vt. – Next Stage Arts and Twilight Music present singer-songwriters Kat Wright and Brett Hughes with their quartet, performing songs of the season at Next Stage on Friday, Dec. 1, at 7:30 p.m.

Kat Wright and Brett Hughes, two of Vermont’s most beloved songbirds, join forces once again this December for their 10th annual Vermont holiday tour. The show, a true Christmas gift featuring Tyler Bolles (Swale, Rough Francis) on upright bass and multi-instrumentalist Will Seeders (Carling & Will, Caitlin Canty), offers songs of holiday heartbreak and holiday cheer. It is jeweled with storytelling, originals, and beloved classics alike. It’s guaranteed to warm your heart, pique your nostalgia, and create a loving container for those good old holiday blues that we all know so well.

If a holiday is an opportunity to journey within, Kat and Brett are the perfect lighthearted guides. For over a decade they have cultivated a show that ushers in the yuletide season, and has become a beloved tradition not to be missed for their growing audiences. Showcasing what each are known far and wide for – soaring harmonies, intimate tender moments, timeless songwriting and arranging, and expert showmanship – it’s easy to see how, for almost a decade, the Kat and Brett Holiday Fête has had audiences singing along, throwing their heads back in knowing laughter, and of course wiping away a sentimental tear or two.

Next Stage production director Barry Stockwell notes that “an incredibly versatile and gifted singer, Kat performs with her eight-piece soul band, her rootsy, funky trio, her folk duo with Brett, and the Vermont Symphony Orchestra – we’re thrilled to bring

her back to Putney for one of just a handful of annual holiday shows that she’s doing with her quartet, featuring equally talented singer-songwriter Brett Hughes.”

Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, Vt. Tickets are discounted in advance. There is also a livestream option. Advance tickets are available at [www.nextstagearts.org](http://www.nextstagearts.org). Next Stage will provide a beer, wine, and cocktail cash bar. For more information, call 802-387-0102 or visit the website above.



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[Facebook.com/StoneHouseAntiqueCenter](https://www.facebook.com/StoneHouseAntiqueCenter)

Get an early start to your Holiday Season at our ninth “Stone House Holiday” Open House.

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