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# THE SHOPPER Newspaper

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## Springfield moves into budget season

BY PAULA BENSON  
*The Shopper*

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Selectboard met on Monday, Nov. 13, at 6 p.m., for their regular meeting, and held a budget workshop immediately following. Town manager Jeff Mobus told the board that he had met with the budget advisory committee twice, and that all department heads had submitted responsible budgets maintaining the current level of services. Mobus said there are decisions to be made, but that he was “confident that we can provide a budget to the taxpayers that both continues existing services and abides by the board’s guidance.”

The board approved two special event permits, for Shelburne Vineyard and Eden Ice Cider Company, to co-host wine and cider

tastings on Saturday, Dec. 2, at The Gallery at the VAULT at 68 Main Street. The holiday-themed event runs from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., and includes artist demonstrations, gift wrapping, and music.

The board voted in agreement with library director Sue Dowdell and the library trustees, who recommended increasing the nonresident library fee from \$50 per year to \$60, effective Jan. 1, 2024, with a scheduled increase on July 1, 2025, to \$70.

A bid from Control Technologies for \$80,525 to replace the failing air handler and condenser in the library was approved by the board, with money coming from the library renovation fund.

Board member Walter Martone mentioned a previous discussion regarding replacing the library roof,

and voiced his concern regarding leaving enough funds in the account to cover the cost of inevitable, necessary roof repairs. The library fund currently has \$98,000 available.

Dowdell responded, saying she was looking into grant funds for the roof project and would get back to the board when she had more information.

Mobus and the board revisited the discussion of removing 98 diseased pine trees at the Oakland Cemetery, with the board ultimately voting to accept the vendor’s proposal and agreed upon payment schedule. The tree removal work will begin in the spring of 2024.

The board voted to approve an increase in on-call firefighter pay rates, as recommended by Mobus, at the request of Chief Paul Stagner, who could not at-

tend Monday night’s meeting. The new rates will go into effect Dec. 3, 2023, and can be viewed on the town website within the meeting packet.

Mobus reported that the town put up two neglected Wall Street properties for auction, and received bids of \$31,750 for 151 Wall Street, and \$20,000 for 188 Wall Street. Steve Ankuda, Springfield town attorney, is working on closing both bids, according to Mobus.

Mobus also was happy to announce that they have filled the positions of maintenance foreman, two maintenance workers, and water and wastewater operator.

The board toured the wastewater plant on Nov. 8, and discussed the need to replace aging equipment and update the composting process, which has been handled the same

way for 30 years. There are newer, more efficient ways to process the composted product, and Mobus mentioned they learned that upgrading the facility will be costly, but would benefit not only the Town of Springfield, but the region, providing a revenue stream for the town while addressing regional composting needs.

Board Chair Kristi Morris said they are waiting for the evaluation of the plant to be completed, then the board will need to review, make some decisions, and work out how the town will pay for the new equipment. There are some grants coming up for wastewater upgrades, reported Morris, but town residents will be responsible for a portion of the costs, to be determined.

Springfield Parks and Recreation director Chris Merrill was present, and

reported to the board on a recent commissioned analysis of the town pool, stating that the “overall figures are not good.”

To bring it up to safety standards could be \$400,000-\$500,000 or more, according to the report.

“There’s quite a list,” remarked Merrill.

Merrill also reported that the town’s pickleball park attendance was almost at a maximum, and he said they looked forward to adding adult volleyball once a week, and new this season, adult dodgeball.

One item of note is that the bridge on Greeley Road will be closed for the winter. The supporting structure is not stable, and the town is working with engineers to research ways to repair the bridge, with construction planned for the 2024 season.

## Aliya Farmer named DAR BFUHS Good Citizen



Aliya Farmer. PHOTO PROVIDED

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – It is a pleasure to announce that Aliya Farmer has been named the 2023-2024 Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Good Citizen for Bellows Falls Union High School (BFUHS). The DAR Good Citizen Award and Scholarship Contest, created in 1934, are intended to encourage and reward the qualities of good citizenship. Aliya, a senior, is the daughter of Melissa Jenne and David Farmer of Grafton, Vt.

This award is given based on the following criteria set forth by the DAR national organization: dependability (including truthfulness, loyalty, and punctuality), service (including cooperation, courtesy, and consideration of others), leadership (including personality, self-control, and ability to assume responsibility) and patriotism (including unselfish interest in family, school, community, and nation.) Aliya is an excellent representative of these characteristics.

As a scholar, Aliya is dependable, works hard, is quick to advocate for herself, and is a strong communicator. She consistently goes above and beyond on her work not only for a grade, but to ensure her own understanding of the ideas and how they apply to the real world. On the rare occasion when she is absent from school, she communicates ahead of time, gets her work done, and follows up with any questions she has. She is attentive to her work, comes to school eager to learn, and has shown herself as someone on whom people can depend.

A positive role model who leads by example, Aliya is a leader in the true essence of the word. She is kind and

considerate to classmates and staff, and goes out of her way to help. She is often one of the first to volunteer, frequently without being asked. An active member of the BFUHS community, Aliya is involved in extracurricular activities including athletics (as a three sport participant), student council (elected vice president) and is a member of the BFUHS Jesse A. Judd/Marilee Huntoon Chapter of the National Honor Society. As an active member she brings creativity, a plethora of unique ideas, and the willingness participate in all aspects of any activity she joins. She gives 100% to any sport or activity she gets involved in, and encourages others to join. Mature and responsible, she is kind and inclusive of everyone. Aliya is described by one of her teachers as “the epitome of hard work, determination, integrity, and grace.” She turns setbacks into learning experiences, and shows perseverance and grit. Through her role as a third and fourth grade basketball coach,

Aliya has worked hard to serve as a good example for a younger generation.

Aliya is presently enrolled in the second year of the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program at the Windham Regional Career Center (WRCC), and she plans to continue her education in the health field by becoming a pediatric nurse. She is passionate about advancing the quality of health care available to her patients and treating them with empathy and respect.

Aliya’s actions and manner clearly embody the values of the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen, and BFUHS is proud to have her represent us with the award this year.

## Wetland restoration project underway at The Nature Museum

GRAFTON, Vt. – The Nature Museum in Grafton, Vt., announces the latest phase of its exciting wetland restoration project. The Chapman Meadow behind the museum building has been transformed with the construction of a new pond, creation of one-of-a-kind natural playscape features, and new pathways. This milestone marks a significant breakthrough after three years of brainstorming and planning by the museum’s dedicated “meadow-mittee” and staff.

“Reviving a wetland and providing space for both self-guided and staff-led education are key goals with this project,” says Nikolas Katrick, executive director of the museum. “I hope this inspires folks in our region to restore small wetlands in their backyards and neighborhoods, because all together, that can have a significant impact in slowing down flood waters and providing habitat for our wildlife neighbors.”



Nature Museum board members Will Danforth and Rick Cowan pose with Senior Educator Jay DiGregorio. PHOTO PROVIDED

An important part of the initiative is building a long-term meadow management plan, including strategies to manage invasive species. Recently, students from Compass School helped with the task of identifying existing invasive species on the property, properly removing these plants, and preparing them for proper disposal. Over the past year, hundreds of native species have been planted in the meadow, along with further development of the native pollinator gardens.

In addition to the conservation of the habitat around the museum, this project is also part of the museum’s strategic plan to offer children more opportunities for unstructured play in natural settings, with the expansion of the Magic Forest Playscape. Situated on the edge of the Chapman Meadow overlooking the new pond, this is a popular destination for locals and visitors, featuring jumping stumps, balancing logs, a shelter-building area, and a cabin overlooking the meadow.

Natural play areas help kids develop in many ways,

including “creative, physical, social/emotional, and spiritual” domains, says Ken Finch, museum board member and founder of Green Hearts Institute for Nature in Childhood. New features in the Playscape include a bear den and tunnel, boulder piles, earth mounds, a sand pit, and parent seating areas.

The Nature Museum worked closely with excavators Thad and Jan Guild of TMG Enterprises, a talented husband and wife team, who have been invaluable from planning to execution. Jim McClammer of Connecticut Valley Environmental Services had a pivotal role in ensuring compliance with essential wetland protection regulations, and for ecological considerations regarding existing and future habitats.

The Nature Museum is open Friday-Sunday, and the meadow, pollinator gardens, and playscape are open every day. Portions of the meadow are off limits while under construction. To learn more about the project, visit [www.nature-museum.org](http://www.nature-museum.org).

## SAPA TV presents Producer Awards

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Thursday, Nov. 9, SAPA TV held its Annual Meeting and Producer Awards Night in the new Sysko Studio, located at 335 River Street. Despite this being the second such meeting at the new space, it was the first to include a larger community of volunteers, members, and producers who have joined the station since its reopening

in 2022. Over the course of the year in review, SAPA TV saw 61,250 online video views of its programs, with 413 locally produced shows, 145 government meetings covered, 81 individuals trained, and 71 reservations for field equipment.

SAPA TV was pleased to present the Producer of the Year award to Brenda Farkas, who produced 34 shows in the past year with

her late husband Matthew. Together, they produced nearly 300 programs together for SAPA TV.

SAPA TV can be a resource for anyone with the desire to create, learn, or educate. Their regular business hours are Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Please note that SAPA TV will be closed Nov. 22-24 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

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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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# Springfield sixth Holiday Local Loyalty Program

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Friday, Nov. 24, marks the official kick-off of Springfield's sixth annual Holiday Local Loyalty Program. The Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to bring this fun, collaborative program to the community again this year. With so many wonderful area merchants participating in the rewards stamp program this year, you're sure to find plenty of opportunities to fulfill your holiday shopping needs in the neighborhood.

Simply get your Local Loyalty Card at any participating Springfield area merchant, and earn a stamp for every \$5 or \$10 you spend. Each participating business will feature a unique raffle prize. Once your card is filled, you can enter it in the raffle of your choice.

The shop local campaign

runs from Nov. 24 – Dec. 31. Raffle winners will be drawn in January.

The 2023 Local Loyalty Program Stamp Card participants are: Bibbens Ace, Black River Coffee Bar, Black Rock Steakhouse, Crown Point Pub, The Dance Factory, Denise E. Photography, Edgar May Health and Recreation Center, Gallery at the VAULT, Great Northern Liquidation, HB Energy Solutions (payments at 132 Bridge Street), Springfield Farmers Market Dec. 16 Holiday Market, Springfield Food Co-op, Tina's Hallmark, Uplift Acrobatics and Dance, US Cellular – New England Wireless, and Vermont Beer Makers.

A heartfelt thank you to this year's "Friends of the Program" sponsors for supporting this fun and festive collaborative effort. The Friends of the Program are: All Seasons Con-

struction, Cota Oil, The Dance Factory, Imagetek Mfg, Jerry Farnum State Farm, Mascoma Bank, M&T Bank, and WCFR Your Hometown Classic Hits.

The official start of the program featuring all the businesses starts Nov. 24. Join us in the collective endeavor to spread cheer and strengthen support for small businesses in the Springfield region this holiday season. If you have questions, contact the chamber by calling 802-885-2779, or email [info@springfieldvt.com](mailto:info@springfieldvt.com). Follow the official Springfield Holiday Local Loyalty Program Event via the Chamber's Facebook page, or [www.springfieldvt.com](http://www.springfieldvt.com) for more info about participating businesses, their raffle prizes, and ongoing program news.

# Bellows Falls Elks Free Throw Contest

**REGION** – The Elks Basketball Free Throw Contest will take place on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 9:45 a.m. – 12 p.m., at Bellows Falls Middle School, 15 School Street in Bellows Falls, Vt.

This event is open to all participants ages 8-13,

from the Bellows Falls Union area through the Fall Mountain region.

The event will consist of 25 free throws, with six trophies handed out to the first place finishers of each age bracket (8-9, 10-11, and 12-13).

Doors open at 9:45 a.m.

for registration, and the event starts at 10 a.m.

This event is sponsored by Bellows Falls Elks Lodge #1619. First place shooters will move on to the district level competition on Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024, at 10 a.m., in Windsor, Vt.

# VAC Meet and Greet in Bellows Falls

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – Please join us in welcoming Susan Evans McClure, executive director of the Vermont Arts Council (VAC) when she visits Bellows Falls. A Meet and Greet, scheduled for Monday, Nov. 27, from 9:30-10:30 a.m., at the Rockingham Free Public Library, is hosted by the Vermont Creative Network/Southern Zone, the Rockingham Arts and Museum Project (RAMP), Rockingham Free Public Library, the Rockingham Incremental Development Working Group (RIDWG) and the Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance (BFDDA).

Ms. McClure is looking forward to visiting

Bellows Falls in order to meet with constituents and promote the Southern Vermont Creative Network, an initiative of the Vermont Arts Council. For more information on the Vermont Creative Network, visit [www.vermontartscouncil.org/vermont-creative-network](http://www.vermontartscouncil.org/vermont-creative-network).

The Vermont Creative Network is a broad collective of organizations, businesses, and individuals working to advance Vermont's creative sector. Vermont is known as one of the most creative states in the nation. Creative industries and occupations provide 9.3% of all employment. From Bennington to Barton, arts and culture significantly bolster the local economy, and are at the heart of Vermont's identity.

Following the Meet and Greet, McClure will tour a few of the projects actively contributing to the creative economy of Bellows Falls, including: 33 Bridge Street (Stage 33, Wool FM, Hunter Studio, Sherwin Glass, and Kekic Glass), the Miss Bellows Falls Diner, the Exner Block (providing 10 affordable live/workspaces with a preference given to artists, and six retail spaces), and Wild Goose Players.

The public is invited, and RSVPs are appreciated. Send RSVPs to [ramp@sover.net](mailto:ramp@sover.net) and write "RSVP for VAC 11/27 event" in the subject line, or call 802-463-3252. The Rockingham Free Public Library is wheelchair accessible. For accessibility questions, please contact the library directly at 802-463-4270.

# Ask Springfield's state representatives

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Do you ever feel like your voice is not heard? Do you discuss issues and concerns with your friends, neighbors, and on social media, but do not feel satisfied? This is your opportunity to get answers from Vermont state officials.

Come to the Springfield Town Library for this Community Conversation on Tuesday, Dec. 5, at 6 p.m., to hear from Springfield's State Reps. Alice Emmons and Kristi Morris.

Alice has been a member of the House of Representatives since 1983. She chairs the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions, is vice chair for the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee, and serves on other committees. Kristi was elected to his first full term in 2020, after being appointed by Governor Phil Scott to fill the seat after the passing of Representative Robert Forguites in 2019. Kristi is a member of the House Committee on Environment and Energy. This is your chance

to voice your concerns, ask questions, and discuss important issues that matter to you before the new legislative session begins.

Springfield Town Library believes in the power of open dialogue, and wants to create a space where your voice is heard. Alice and Kristi will talk about their priorities for the 2024 legislative session. Whether you have questions about local policies, want to address community concerns, or simply want to learn more about the work of your state representatives, this event is for you. It's an excellent opportunity to connect with your elected officials and make a difference in your community. Don't miss out on this chance to engage in meaningful conversations and have your voice heard. Mark your calendars and join us for an evening of community connection and discussion. Please call the library at 802-885-3108 for more information.

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# DoorDash flood relief grants for restaurants

**REGION** – DoorDash, together with its partners Hello Alice and the Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN), announced \$440,000 in grant funding through the Restaurant Disaster Relief Fund in 2023. This initiative provides \$10,000 relief grants to restaurants impacted by natural disasters or emergencies not only in the United States but also, for the first time, in Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

Four Vermont restaurants were included in the announcement, two of which are in the local area: the

Blue Duck Deli in Ludlow, and The Hub in Weston.

Natural disasters can bring profound devastation to local communities, and rebuilding after disaster strikes can be challenging. To help local communities and businesses respond to this challenge, DoorDash created the Restaurant Disaster Relief Fund in 2021. The Fund's relief grants can be used to cover critical operating expenses, including rent or mortgage payments, replenishing food or beverage supplies, or paying bills and other costs. Earlier this year we renewed the fund,

to provide a total of \$1 million to 100 restaurants in \$10,000 grants across four grant rounds in 2023 and 2024.

Restaurant owners have until Dec. 31 to apply for the current round of funding. The next and final funding round opens on Jan. 2, 2024, and closes on March 29, 2024. Restaurant owners are eligible to apply up to one year after a qualifying disaster occurs. To learn more and apply, please visit [get.doordash.com/en-us/about/disaster-relief-fund](https://get.doordash.com/en-us/about/disaster-relief-fund).

# “The Nature of Weather Patterns” at OLLI

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Mark Breen will present the next Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) program “Trend Setter: The Nature of Weather Patterns” on Tuesday, Nov. 28, at 2 p.m., at the Nolin Murray Center, next to St. Mary's Church on Pleasant Street in Springfield.



Mark Breen, Vermont Public's “Eye on the Sky,” will give the next OLLI presentation.

One of the group's favorite speakers, Breen returns for his 12th annual presentation. The weather is always up to something, and recent weather extremes, widespread discussions through social media, as well as local and major news outlets, bring a great deal of attention to trends, patterns, and changes in weather events. As the senior meteorologist at the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium for over 40 years, Breen will utilize his knowledge and experience to explain the way that the weather works. He'll share information on where the weather gets its energy, and how this creates certain patterns and events that deliver sunshine or monsoons. He'll guide us through the information, and the misinformation, and weave together the tapestry of weather patterns.

For over 40 years, Breen has been heard on Vermont Public's “Eye on the Sky” each weekday morning, and in the afternoons with the astronomy program “Eye on the Night Sky” at 4:30 p.m. Along with weather forecasting, his work at the museum involves teaching weather and science, as well as creating and delivering presentations in Vermont's only public planetarium. Mark's award-winning children's book, “The Kid's Book of Weather Forecasting,” is now in its fifth printing.

Originally from Dannemora, N.Y., Mark has lived in Vermont since attending Lyndon State College, where he graduated in 1982 with a Bachelor of Science in meteorology. When asked why he became a me-

teorologist, his response is, “because I love snow!”

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

There is a Membership Series special fee. 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](http://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](mailto:noncredit@uvm.edu).

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](http://www.learn.uvm.edu/olli/springfield). This will be the final program of this fall semester. The spring semester will begin at the end of February, and the program listing will be available in January.

# The Donnis house

BY RON PATCH  
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Fred and Bill drawing firewood, circa 1910.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY RON PATCH

The photo with this article is the Donnis house, and dates to about 1910. This is the red brick house near the entrance of Chester Elementary School.

The team of horses is drawing a load of short logs, probably delivering four-foot firewood. At their feet are their names – Fred on left, Bill on right. Notice their studded bridles across their faces. The unknown driver sits atop the load.

I know this type of vehicle as a work sled. This is a double sled. The rear sled runners are fixed, while the front sled runners do turn for steering.

Written in old ink on the reverse: “This is just an ordinary load. Load measures 3 ½ cord. Load weighs 6 tons + 45. Horses weigh 2690. White face 1320 other weighs 1370.”

Look to the lower left and you'll see a small sleigh. The butt of that horse can barely be seen. This offers perspective on how large this team and sled were.

## The Donnis house

Behind the team is the Donnis house. Danny and I were not positive this was the Donnis house, so we went and looked. Look at the second story at right. The second window from the right has closed shutters. Today you can see where this window has been bricked up. Under the eaves is a decorative molding. In the antiques trade this is called “dental molding.” It repeats under the porch roof.

The porch today has been replaced. The original porch had square columns that sat on square plinths. I estimate the plinths were about 3 feet high. In the old days, the porch was straight across the front. Today it bows out in the center, and the square plinths have been replaced with full-length columns.

You'll notice this place is painted white. Today it is brick color. I remember when it was painted white, as many will. I was thinking it was sandblasted in the early 1960s. Ken Barrett said it

was later than that, and Ed Donnis burned the paint off instead of sandblasting. I'll take Ken's word. I probably have it confused with the brick building at the corner of School Street and The Common. This building was sandblasted. Next time you drive by, look what the sandblasting did to the brick.

Charles Wellman

In the early 1900s, Charles Wellman was Chester's postcard photographer. His photography studio was the small building next to the library. Wellman was in a unique position to photograph doings on Main Street. Any activity or vehicle on Main Street, he was there to photograph. He left us a large body of photographic history.

Most Wellman photos show the teams and wagons coming down the street. Not the case here, so what was the destination? Wellman was there to photograph loads of soapstone coming down the street, destined for the soapstone mill in the depot. Other loads of various products went to the railroad to be shipped down country. This team might have come

from Popple Dungeon via Grafton Street.

Sometimes on the reverse side, or “address side,” Wellman had printed at the left border, “C.E.W. Chester, Vt.” This card does not bear his initials. That is not uncommon.

Paul Cook recently brought me some postcards to consider. Paul pointed this card out to me, telling me there were two of them. Danny and I looked the cards over. Neither of us had ever seen this card, so we each bought one. We have similar views of different teams taken at this location. Remember, Wellman was right across the street.

It must have been enjoyable sitting on the Donnis porch watching the daily doings. You would have known most every passerby. The world was a lot slower in those days. I'd take it.

Refer to “History of Chester, Vermont” by the Chester Historical Society, page 203, for more history on the Donnis place.

*This week's old saying: “It's not how long you live that matters, but how much you accomplish while here.”*

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# Why take part in the 2023 Apple Blossom?

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – When Kelly Flynn, former Apple Blossom Queen of 1966 and current Apple Blossom Committee Member, reached out to Apple Blossom participants and classmates of years past with curiosity and questions on their experience, she was amazed at the overwhelmingly warm and exciting response from many. One person wrote back that Apple

Blossom was “The Prom of Proms!” So, if you are looking to participate this year, these former participants would absolutely encourage it, as this will be something very memorable for you and your entire court for years to come.

Kelly asked, “Why should I consider anything about the Apple Blossom?” Responses ranged, but “tradition” was among many of

the answers. This tradition runs deep and strong not only at Springfield Hospital, but also in our communities and in area families.

A few others were excited that they got to dress up. What’s not to like about dressing up? This is your opportunity to dress to impress and be presented to a live audience and on SAPA TV. Our on-stage attire this year is not only affordable, but absolutely stunning.

Many others stated that their parents encouraged them to participate for reasons that varied, from joining the tea and breakfast, to

building character for the real thing one day. We know, we know; the last thing you probably want to do is something your parents recommend. However, previous contestants noted how much fun they had throughout the entire process. From rehearsals to the show, these teens had a blast together and created a lasting bond for years to come. It was a way for seniors to get to know other seniors that they may not have known so well. They also really enjoyed doing the dance numbers with the younger children, and some remain in touch with

their young counterparts to this day.

An escort, now known as a partner, provided this laugh-inducing anecdote. “We were the highlight of the show. Even though we had two left feet, the director showed us how to do it. We did fun dances/numbers. In fact, we were the comedic interludes. We had top hats that kept falling off. We scrambled to get them. The entire audience laughed and applauded. There was no pressure on us. We were not going to be queen or in the court.” Another member of the Class of 1966 wrote in with regret for missing it, saying, “I wanted to be an escort. I wish I had done the asking.”

With that said, we urge our seniors and young children to apply and join this year. We are planning a comeback of comebacks as we reintroduce Apple Blossom back into the community after a hiatus during the pandemic. A former Apple Blossom participant says if you think you are “too busy with other activities, you may regret

not spending the two hours of rehearsal each Sunday afternoon when you hear how much fun the participants and escorts are having.”

Another former participant suggests that if you’re on the fence for joining, please “talk with a previous participant or member of the committee about your concerns. They will keep your concerns anonymous and help you work through the decision. Then they will help you apply and coach you through the whole process.”

All in all, we hope to see our community seniors and young children participate this year in a fabulous show. And what’s a show without our fun and engaging audience, too? Please save the date for Apple Blossom 2024 – May 3 and 4. Applications for contestants and their partners is Dec. 19. Young children’s applications are due Jan. 19, 2024. For more information, visit [www.springfieldhospital.org/fundraising-events](http://www.springfieldhospital.org/fundraising-events).

*Written by Meaghan Yuska.*

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## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging  
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Squid squirt
- 4 Beloved
- 8 "Ditto"
- 12 "The Simpsons" barkeep
- 13 Killer whale
- 14 Director Kazan
- 15 Get older
- 16 Feel elated
- 18 Two-dot punctuation mark
- 20 Triage ctrs.
- 21 Calendar entry (Abbr.)
- 24 Smiles broadly
- 28 Flight costs "Phooey!"
- 33 Hosp. area
- 34 Rich cake
- 36 Quarterback Manning
- 37 Arrears
- 39 NPR show hosted by Terry Gross
- 41 Thoreau piece
- 43 Gym site, for short
- 44 Promptly
- 46 Film trophy
- 50 Rock fan's imaginary instrument
- 55 Employ

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56					57				58		
59					60				61		

- 56 Satan's purchase
- 57 Separate
- 58 Crib
- 59 Ginormous
- 60 Cookware
- 61 Newt
- 7 Yard tool
- 8 Had a hunch
- 9 Carte lead-in
- 10 Roman 1002
- 11 Corn spike
- 17 Sphere
- 19 Klutz
- 22 Campus VIP
- 23 Towel material
- 25 Vicinity
- 26 Niger's neighbor
- 27 Swizzle
- 28 Staffer
- 29 Frozen desserts
- 30 Abrades
- 31 Gilette
- 35 Prom dates
- 38 Snarl
- 40 Owens
- 42 One of us
- 45 Trace
- 47 Rubik's baffler
- 48 "Dream on!"
- 49 Monopoly payment
- 50 Bonfire residue
- 51 Debtor's note
- 52 Bad hairpiece
- 53 Overly
- 54 Illustrations

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## RON PATCH ~ Buying Antiques

Photographs, Military Items, Clocks, Guns, Coins, More  
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Men's Health Magazine

# CHURCH SERVICES

# obituaries

## ASCUTNEY, VT.

### Vision of Light Church of Spiritualism and Healing, P.O. Box 133, Windsor

The Sunday service is at 10 a.m. with Lay Pastor Dawn Hancy via Zoom. Sign up for the Vision of Light newsletter and Zoom links on Facebook @VOLChurch.

## BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

### First Baptist Church of Bellows Falls, 9 Church St.

Traditional Baptist Services held Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. Handicap accessible. 802-463-3220.

## CAVENDISH, VT.

### Cavendish Baptist Church, 2258 Main St.

Sunday services are 10 a.m. online or in person. Online services are on Facebook at 10 a.m. Go to [www.facebook.com/Cavendish-Baptist-Church-258814894244302](http://www.facebook.com/Cavendish-Baptist-Church-258814894244302). More at [www.CavendishBaptist.com](http://www.CavendishBaptist.com) or call 802-226-7131.

## CHARLESTOWN, N.H.

### North Charlestown United Methodist Church, 471 River Rd.

Worship is Sundays at 9 a.m. Holy communion is celebrated the first Sunday of every month. Go to [www.facebook.com/UMCOFNorthCharlestown](http://www.facebook.com/UMCOFNorthCharlestown) for more information.

### Charlestown Congregational Church, 71 Main St.

Sunday service starts at 10 a.m. All are welcome. For more information, call 603-826-3335.

## CHESTER, VT.

### Andover Community Church, 928 Weston-Andover Rd.

Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. and worship service 10:45 a.m. For more information, go to [www.andovercommunitychurch.org](http://www.andovercommunitychurch.org).

## LUDLOW, VT.

### United Church of Ludlow (UCC and Methodist), 48 Pleasant St.

Sunday services are held in person and streamed online at 10 a.m. Email [unitedchurch@tds.net](mailto:unitedchurch@tds.net) for more information. Visit [www.unitedchurch.us](http://www.unitedchurch.us) to receive updates on services and meetings.

### Ludlow Baptist Church, on the Green, 99 Main St.

Weekly worship services are in-person. Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. for all ages, and Sunday worship is at 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday's prayer meeting is at 6:30 p.m. For more information, go to [www.LudlowBaptist.org](http://www.LudlowBaptist.org).

## SPRINGFIELD, VT.

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

Sunday Bible Study for all ages at 10 a.m.; Worship Service at 11 a.m. includes a group meeting for children. Live or past services can be viewed on Facebook at [SpringfieldVTChurchofChrist](https://www.facebook.com/SpringfieldVTChurchofChrist). Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., adult class on different topics meets in the Fellowship Hall, accessed by parking in the back of the church. For more information, call Jamie Kurpiel, Evangelist, at 870-615-0452 or email [jkurpiel@yahoo.com](mailto:jkurpiel@yahoo.com). If no answer, call 802-886-2670.

### St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 33 Fairground Rd.

Sunday Services 8:30 a.m. - Holy Days as announced. Services alternate between Clergy Officiated, Traditional Rite I and Contemporary Rite II, Holy Eucharist, and Licensed Lay Led Rites I and II Morning Prayer. All are invited regardless of religious affiliation. Call David at 802-885-2972 with questions.

### Unitarian Universalist Church, 21 Fairground Rd.

Sunday Services are at 10 a.m., in person and on

## William E. Nelson, 1944-2023

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The Reverend William E. Nelson, 79, died peacefully on Wednesday evening, Nov. 15, 2023, at the Jack Byrne Center of Dartmouth Health in Lebanon, N.H. He was born on July 8, 1944, in his beloved Cleveland, Ohio, the son of Arnold S. and Marie (Hanus) Nelson.

Bill was a graduate of Shaw High School in East Cleveland, Case Western Reserve University, and Vanderbilt Divinity School. For several years he was active on the alumni councils of both universities.

Bill's ministry in church settings began at Plymouth Church of Shaker Heights (Ohio), and later continued at First Church of Lakewood, UCC (Ohio). In Vermont, he served the Norwich Congregational Church and the First Congregational Church of Springfield. Bill's last parish was the Kearsarge Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in the Andover/New London, N.H., area.

Bill and his wife Stephanie Hoover Nelson were married on July 10, 1970. They shared a rich and loving marriage, and had eight "four-legged children" (five cats and three greyhounds) whom they adored.

Bill's lifelong interests included art, especially Abstract Impressionism, particularly Mark Rothko's works. The focus of his vacations was often to visit art museums here and abroad. He loved all the great periods of classical music, and also the artistry of Leonard Cohen. He liked reading poetry, short stories, and books dealing with religion and theology. He enjoyed



William Nelson, 1944-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

visiting other churches and absorbing sacred spaces.

He is remembered by those who knew him as a kind, good, and gentle man who possessed a quiet sense of humor and an enjoyment of life. He was deeply spiritual. He loved a cloudy rainy day, he whistled while walking from one place to another, and never lost an opportunity to proclaim the wonders of Cleveland.

He is survived by his wife Stephanie; sister Jeanne Peterson; nieces Trish P. Iaccarino, Kris P. Hupp, and Vickie N. Smithingell; and nephews Darren Nelson and John Peterson. Stephanie's brother Charles S. L. Hoover and her niece and nephews Deb, Mark, and Jeff Levesque, had a close relationship with Bill, and they will miss him.

He was predeceased by his parents and his brother James.

Friends are invited to gather at Davis Memorial Chapel on Nov. 29, after 1:30 p.m., for a time of sharing memories and stories of Bill. His memorial service will be held at 2:30 p.m.

Rather than sending flowers, please consider making a donation in his honor to a cause that you hold dear.

Zoom. For more information, go to [www.uspringfieldvt.org](http://www.uspringfieldvt.org).

### United Methodist Church, 10 Valley St.

Sunday worship is 9:30 a.m. For more information, call 802-885-1916. Everyone is welcome.

## WALPOLE, N.H.

### St. John's Episcopal Church, corner of Westminster and Elm St.

Sunday services are 10 a.m. in person or via Zoom. For more information, go to [www.stjohnswalpole.org](http://www.stjohnswalpole.org), email [pastor@stjohnswalpole.org](mailto:pastor@stjohnswalpole.org), or leave a message at 603-756-4533.

### Walpole Unitarian Church, corner of Union and Main St.

Sunday Service begins at 10 a.m. Services are also available via Zoom. For links and updates, go to [www.walpoleunitarianchurch.org](http://www.walpoleunitarianchurch.org).

## Carolyn C. Allison, 1931-2023

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Carolyn C. Allison, 92, died on Wednesday morning, Nov. 15, at the Mount Ascutney Health Center in Windsor, Vt. She was born Feb. 18, 1931, in Worcester, Mass., the daughter of John and Elsa (Johnson) Cederholm. She graduated from North High School in Worcester, Mass., and Wheelock College in Boston.



Carolyn Allison, 1931-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

Carolyn taught school in Worcester, Mass., and West Hartford, Conn. On June 23, 1956, she married Robert David Allison Jr. in Worcester, Mass. They moved to Springfield, Vt., and she taught first grade for one year, and then was home for 12 years with her growing family. She resumed her teaching career in 1969, in the Springfield school system, retiring in 1996.

Family activities were always very important to Carolyn.

She was an active member of the United Methodist Church in Springfield, and she knit mittens for the Santa Claus Club for many years.

She is survived by her daughter Wendy DeCelle and her husband Fred; son Robert Allison and his wife Jennifer; grandchildren Jeffrey, Jacob, Jenny, Bryanna, Kyle, and Nicholas; and great-grandchildren Trenton and Ava.

She was predeceased by her husband Robert in 2001, her son David in 2011, and her sister Betty Jane Valentine in 2022.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Nov. 25, at 1 p.m., at the United Methodist Church in

Springfield, Vt. The Rev. Gerry Piper, pastor, will officiate.

A private burial service will be held in the Pine Grove Cemetery in North Springfield, Vt.

Memorial contributions may be made to the United Methodist Church, 10 Valley Street, Springfield, VT 05156; to AL-SAC/St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 ([www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org)); or to Shriners Hospitals for Children, Attn: Office of Development, 2900 Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, FL 33607 ([www.lovetotherescue.org](http://www.lovetotherescue.org)).

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

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# WCGIG to explore state and national family history resources

WINDHAM COUNTY, Vt. - The next meeting of the Windham County Genealogy Interest Group (WCGIG) will focus on "Navigating your Family History at the Vermont State Archives and Exploring the Digital Public Library of America" on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., on Zoom only. This program is free and open to all. Please register at [www.bit.ly/wcgig-dec23](http://www.bit.ly/wcgig-dec23). A Zoom link will be sent to you at least one week before the meeting. Pose any questions that you may have for the presenters when you register.

Reference archivist Mariessa Dobrick at the Vermont State Archives will share genealogy resources through stories in her prerecorded presentation, "Navigating your Family History at the Vermont State Archives."

The Vermont State Archives consist of records that have continuing value to the State of Vermont and its citizens. The holdings document Vermont state government from crown colony to the present. Because many of these

records reflect the interactions of individual citizens with their government, the state archives is a useful resource for genealogists and family historians with Vermont connections.

Records often used by genealogists include vital records, court records, and the records of state institutions and newspapers. The Manuscript Vermont State Papers documents the names of thousands of Vermonters between 1777-1865 that had interactions with government, from petitions to grand lists and beyond.

Wayne Blanchard, co-founder of Windham County Genealogy Interest Group and genealogy volunteer at Rockingham Public Library, will take us on a virtual tour of The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), online at <http://dp.la>, through his talk "Exploring the Digital Public Library of America."

The DPLA provides a way to search the collections of a wide range of partner institutions - libraries, archives, and government offices. This online library does not have its own col-

lection, but gives a way to search across many other collections in one place. Although not focused specifically on genealogy, many of its free materials are helpful for doing family research. The website contains links to photographs, family bibles, correspondence (for example, from the Civil War letters), local maps, yearbooks, military records, oral histories, family history, and genealogy books. As its website proclaims, the DPLA is totally free to use and open to all - no library card, subscription, or sign up is required.

The WCGIG is an informal organization whose members are dedicated to genealogy education, research, and best practices. Meetings are held every other month on Zoom. Many of these sessions were recorded and are available on the WCGIG YouTube channel, [www.bit.ly/wcgigvideo](http://www.bit.ly/wcgigvideo), which cover topics such as improving your search results in [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) and [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com); using family tree software; navigating the crowd sourced cemetery database Find A Grave; using land records for genealogy research; using [www.americanancestors.org](http://www.americanancestors.org), the database of the New England Historic Genealogical Society; and finding people in the newly released 1950 U.S. Census.

WCGIG is also supported by Brooks Memorial Library in Brattleboro, Vt., and Rockingham Free Library in Bellows Falls, Vt., with use of their Zoom accounts, publicity, and use of their facilities.

For more information, contact Wayne Blanchard or Jerry Carbone of the Windham County Genealogy Interest Group at [windhamcountyig@gmail.com](mailto:windhamcountyig@gmail.com)

**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).

## OBITUARIES

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# calendar

## LEGAL NOTICES

**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.runlikeardy.com/races/toonerville-trail-turkey-trot](http://www.runlikeardy.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.

**NOV. 25 –**  
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Sound Investment will perform classic rock and modern

country music on Saturday, Nov. 25, at 7:30 p.m., at VFW Post 771, 191 River Street in Springfield. This event is open to the public. For more information, contact 802-885-6008.

**DEC. 2 –**  
GRAFTON, Vt. – Fresh cut Vermont Christmas trees will be on sale on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., at the firehouse, 711 Route 121, east of Grafton Village, to benefit the Fire and Rescue Scholarship Fund.

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The annual Christmas Bazaar at the Second Congregational Church in Londonderry, 2051 North Main Street, will be held on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., in the Church Friendship Room.

There will be handmade wreaths to purchase, a delicious lunch served, a “cookie walk,” crafts and gift items to purchase, and much, much fun to be had. Come join us for a wonderful day to get into the Christmas spirit. For more information, please call the church office at 802-824-6453.

**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.

**MONDAYS –**  
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 –**  
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.

### TOWN OF CHARLESTOWN FULL-TIME and PART-TIME POLICE OFFICER OPENINGS

Full time/Part time certified in New Hampshire and/or eligible for certification through the New Hampshire Police Standard and Training Council.

The Town of Charlestown Police Department is seeking a motivated, team oriented person who possesses good problem solving and communication skills that is interested in working in a tight knit community where community policing is a priority. The candidate selected will perform criminal investigations, crime prevention and community involvement assignments along with traffic enforcement.

Minimum Requirements: Applicants must be a U.S. Citizen; must be 21 years old by the anticipated date of the agility test. Applicants must be a high school graduate or equivalent. Candidates must meet the Physical Fitness Testing minimums and will be re-tested once every three years if hired. Must be a full time certified police officer in New Hampshire, or if certified in another state, must be eligible for certification with law package through the New Hampshire Police Standards and Training Council. The hiring process consists of a medical screening, physical agility test, Police Oral Board, polygraph examination, in depth background investigation, psychological evaluation, and drug screening. Salary is based on experience and your time in law enforcement is transferable.

Full time positions are benefit eligible.

If you have any questions please feel free to call Chief Patrick Connors at 603-826-5747.

To Apply: An application can be found on the Charlestown Town Website at <https://www.charlestown-nh.gov/employment>.

Please submit a completed application, resume, and cover letter to: Chief Patrick Connors, Charlestown Police Department, PO Box 1465, Charlestown, NH 03603.

~The Charlestown Police Department is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer~

### Development Review Board Town of Ludlow, Vermont Hybrid Public Hearing December 11, 2023 – 6:00 PM

A public hearing before the Development Review Board for the Town of Ludlow, Vermont, will be held on 11 December 2023 at 6:00 P.M., in the Heald Auditorium, at the Ludlow Town Hall, to consider an application for an Amendment to a Conditional Use Permit:

APPLICANT: South Face Village  
at Okemo Development Company, LLC  
Lodge Road  
Ludlow, Vermont 05149

PROJECT LOCATION: Lodge Rodge  
Ludlow, Vermont

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant is requesting to make the “Temporary Information Center/Real Estate Office” into a permanent commercial building in South Face Village.

APPLICATION NO.: 334-11-CU, Amd No. 5

The above application is available for inspection for inspection at the Ludlow Municipal Offices. Persons wishing to participate may do so in person, be represented by an agent or an attorney, by Zoom, or by writing the Board. Written communications about the application should be filed with the Board either prior to, or during, the hearing. Hybrid meeting information will be available on the agenda.

Rosemary Goings, Director of Planning and Zoning

### Development Review Board Town of Ludlow, Vermont Hybrid Public Hearing December 11, 2023 – 6:00 PM

A public hearing before the Development Review Board for the Town of Ludlow, Vermont, will be held on 11 December 2023 at 6:00 P.M., in the Heald Auditorium, at the Ludlow Town Hall, to consider an application for an Amendment to the Local Act 250 Review:

APPLICANT: Divided Sky Foundation  
262 Fox Lane  
Ludlow, Vermont 05149

PROJECT LOCATION: 262 Fox Lane  
Ludlow, Vermont

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes to replace the swimming pool with a buried 13,000 – 15,000-gallon fiberglass storage tank that will have a piped connection to the existing buried piping for the fire protection system, water will flow via gravity from the buried tank to the booster pump and sprinkler system, as necessary.

APPLICATION NO.: 475-21-ACT250, Amd No. 1

The above application is available for inspection for inspection at the Ludlow Municipal Offices. Persons wishing to participate may do so in person, be represented by an agent or an attorney, by Zoom, or by writing the Board. Written communications about the application should be filed with the Board either prior to, or during, the hearing. Hybrid meeting information will be available on the agenda.

Rosemary Goings  
Director of Planning and Zoning

### Development Review Board Town of Ludlow, Vermont Hybrid Public Hearing December 11, 2023 – 6:00 PM

A public hearing before the Development Review Board for the Town of Ludlow, Vermont, will be held on 11 December 2023 at 6:00 P.M., in the Heald Auditorium, at the Ludlow Town Hall, to consider an application for Subdivision:

APPLICANT: Gill Terrace, LLC  
Eric Alden  
3 Darling St.  
Boston, MA 02120

PROJECT LOCATION: 15 Gill Terrace  
Ludlow, Vermont

Parcel No. 040255.000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Application is to subdivide one 2.8 acre lot into three (3) parcels.

APPLICATION NO.: SUB23-015

The above application is available for inspection for inspection at the Ludlow Municipal Offices. Persons wishing to participate may do so in person, be represented by an agent or an attorney, by Zoom, or by writing the Board. Written communications about the application should be filed with the Board either prior to, or during, the hearing. Hybrid meeting information will be available on the agenda.

Rosemary Goings  
Director of Planning and Zoning

### Development Review Board Town of Ludlow, Vermont Hybrid Public Hearing December 11, 2023 – 6:00 PM

A public hearing before the Development Review Board for the Town of Ludlow, Vermont, will be held on 11 December 2023 at 6:00 P.M., in the Heald Auditorium, at the Ludlow Town Hall, to consider an application for an Amendment to a Conditional Use Permit:

APPLICANT: Black River Mobile Home Court  
c/o Gerald Sheehan  
32 Main St.  
Ludlow, Vermont 05149

PROJECT LOCATION: 36 Main St.  
Ludlow, Vermont, 05149

Parcel No. 230537.000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Application is for the replacement of mobile home #4; repairs and elevation of home #14; and affirm that all homes comply with Ludlow Zoning Regulations Article 6, following the flood of July 10, 2023.

APPLICATION NO.: 334-11-CU, Amd No. 5

The above application is available for inspection for inspection at the Ludlow Municipal Offices. Persons wishing to participate may do so in person, be represented by an agent or an attorney, by Zoom, or by writing the Board. Written communications about the application should be filed with the Board either prior to, or during, the hearing. Hybrid meeting information will be available on the agenda.

Rosemary Goings, Director of Planning and Zoning

### Development Review Board Village of Ludlow, Vermont Hybrid Public Hearing December 11, 2023 – 6:00 PM

A public hearing before the Development Review Board for the Village of Ludlow, Vermont, will be held on 11 December 2023 at 6:00 P.M., in the Heald Auditorium, at the Ludlow Town Hall, to consider an application for an Amendment to a Conditional Use Permit:

APPLICANT: Okemo Marketplace, Inc.  
57 Pond Street, all units involved  
Ludlow, Vermont 05149

PROJECT LOCATION: 57 Pond Street,  
Ludlow, Vermont

Parcel No. 030359.000  
All Units

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Property owner will affirm that each tenant has reconstructed their businesses using the proper FEMA approved materials after the major flood damage, from July 10, 2023. The property owner will apply for a LOMA letter with FEMA to remove the property from the Special Flood Hazard Area.

APPLICATION NO.: 499-23-FHR

The above application is available for inspection for inspection at the Ludlow Municipal Offices. Persons wishing to participate may do so in person, be represented by an agent or an attorney, by Zoom, or by writing the Board. Written communications about the application should be filed with the Board either prior to, or during, the hearing. Hybrid meeting information will be available on the agenda.

Rosemary Goings  
Director of Planning and Zoning

### Development Review Board Village of Ludlow, Vermont Hybrid Public Hearing December 11, 2023 – 6:00 PM

A public hearing before the Development Review Board for the Village of Ludlow, Vermont, will be held on 11 December 2023 at 6:00 P.M., in the Heald Auditorium, at the Ludlow Town Hall, to consider a Flood Hazard Review Permit:

APPLICANT: Shaw’s Supermarket  
213 Main Street  
Parcel No. 220420.000

PROPERTY LOCATION: 213 Main Street  
Ludlow, Vermont

Parcel No. 220420.000

REASON FOR HEARING: Application to reconstruct the interior area of the Shaw’s Supermarket, plus expand into adjacent unit, after major flood damage on July 10, 2023. The Property owner will also testify that each tenant reconstructed their businesses using the proper FEMA approved materials in accordance with Ludlow Planning and Zoning Regulations Article 6.

APPLICATION NUMBER: 88-221-CU/FHR,  
Amendment No.11

The above application is available for inspection at the Ludlow Municipal Offices. Persons wishing to participate may do so in person, be represented by an agent or an attorney, by Zoom, or by writing the Board. Written communications about the application should be filed with the Board either prior to, or during, the hearing. Hybrid meeting information will be available on the agenda.

Rosemary Goings, Director of Planning and Zoning

### Development Review Board Town of Ludlow, Vermont Hybrid Public Hearing December 11, 2023 – 6:00 PM

A public hearing before the Development Review Board for the Town of Ludlow, Vermont, will be held on 11 December 2023 at 6:00 P.M., in the Heald Auditorium, at the Ludlow Town Hall, to consider an application for an Amendment to a Conditional Use Permit:

APPLICANT: Divided Sky Foundation  
262 Fox Lane  
Ludlow, Vermont 05149

PROJECT LOCATION: 262 Fox Lane  
Ludlow, Vermont

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes to replace the swimming pool with a buried 13,000 – 15,000-gallon fiberglass storage tank that will have a piped connection to the existing buried piping for the fire protection system, water will flow via gravity from the buried tank to the booster pump and sprinkler system, as necessary.

APPLICATION NO.: 474-21-CU, Amd No. 1

The above application is available for inspection for inspection at the Ludlow Municipal Offices. Persons wishing to participate may do so in person, be represented by an agent or an attorney, by Zoom, or by writing the Board. Written communications about the application should be filed with the Board either prior to, or during, the hearing. Hybrid meeting information will be available on the agenda.

Rosemary Goings  
Director of Planning and Zoning

# AUTOMOTIVE/REAL ESTATE

# 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.

## 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.

medical records, chairside assisting during dental procedures, taking accurate radiographs as directed, keeping work areas clean and well stocked, and performing instrument sterilization. Experience is preferred but will train the right candidate. We offer a competitive salary and benefits commensurate with experience and fun working environment. Therapy dogs on site so must be comfortable with canine companions. Please send cover letter and resume to info@drchristopherfauver.com.

**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: kkelingtonbrngs@gmail.com.

Openings for a **MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIAN** to provide psychotherapeutic services, and a **PSYCHOMETRIC TECHNICIAN** to administer psychological and neuropsychological tests. Twin State Psychological Services, PO Box 2003, Springfield, VT. Phone 802-885-5719.

**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. 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.

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 Click "SUBMIT A CLASSIFIED AD" in the black navigation menu bar at very top of the page

## 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.

**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

**Dental Assistant - Chester, VT - full time or part time.** Duties include welcoming patients and accurately recording dental and

### NOTICE

#### Town of Cavendish

Please be advised that the Town of Cavendish will accept requests for tax abatement on properties that were lost or damaged as a result of the July flood events. All requests must be in writing and received at the Town Office on or before December 31, 2023.

All questions should be directed to the Town Office, 37 High St, Cavendish VT 05142 or (802) 226-7292.

### 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

### 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 Listers 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, VTPie, word, and excel 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.

**OVER 2000 BROKEN-IN TIRES**  
**MANY SETS OF 4**  
  
**CANON TIRE**  
 I-91, Exit 8, Ascutney, VT  
**802-674-5600**  
**NEW TIRES TOO!!**

Weekly SUDOKU  
 Answer

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

King Crossword  
 Answers  
 Solution time: 24 mins.

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

**TPW Real Estate SALES & RENTALS**  
**WELCOMES KAREN WILSON & JOHN NAPIER TO OUR LUDLOW OFFICE**  
 Karen and John bring years of real estate sales experience and are deeply rooted in our community.

  
**Karen Wilson**  
ksw@tpw.com • 203.550.7430

  
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 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

### 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. 11-7**  
 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 (01/22/24 - TFN - 13)

#### Builders/Contractors

#### HAMMER FOR HIRE LLC

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 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.  
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#### 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. (02/14/24 - 13)

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 Kitchens, Additions, and Remodels. Finish Carpentry and Cabinet Work. Property Maintenance. Fully Insured, Free Estimates.  
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 (11/22/23 - 52)

#### Chiropractor

#### FOUR SEASONS CHIROPRACTIC, PC

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

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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

Watch on TV: Community Channel: Comcast 1076 & VTel 166  
 Education / Gov't Channel: Comcast 1086 / VTel 167  
 Watch Online: OKEMOVALLEY.TV (live streams & video-on-demand) & YOUTUBE  
 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 & events

## HOLIDAY

### Castlebay at Stage 33 —

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. — Castlebay weaves the heritage of New England and the Celtic lands in story and song, blending history, legend, and experience into engaging performances featuring Celtic harp, 12-string guitar, fiddle, tin whistle, strings, and woodwinds. Julia Lane and Fred Gosbee play poignant ballads interspersed with joyous dance tunes, Lane's ethereal soprano and Gosbee's rich baritone, giving life to the evocative imagery, beautiful melodies, and salty humor of the history and characters of life close to the elemental

beauty of the sea and shore. Castlebay has released over three-dozen albums. Julia Lane is a past winner of the International Folk Harp Competition. Fred Gosbee is a musical instrument maker, whose family worked as lumbermen in the forests of New Brunswick and Maine. They have loved, researched, and performed traditional music for most of their lives, and their original compositions — being heralded, sung, and recorded by other artists — will surely become part of that canon.

Castlebay played nearly

annually at the Stone Church Arts World Music Concert Series in Bellows Falls until the demise of that venue in 2017. Stage 33 Live is pleased and honored to host their return to the area.

This is a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday, Dec. 3, at Stage 33 Live, 33 Bridge Street in Bellows Falls, Vt. Tickets can be purchased in advance through [www.stage33live.com](http://www.stage33live.com), or at the door for an additional fee. All proceeds benefit the performers. Seating is limited. All performances are recorded and filmed.

### Vermont Comedy All Stars Showcase at Next Stage —

PUTNEY, Vt. — Gordon Clark and his Vermont Comedy All Stars return for a night of stand-up comedy at Next Stage Arts. Featured performers will include several contest-winning and touring comedians most often seen in the Burlington area.

Julia Colasanti is originally a Vermonter transplanted to the Midwest who moved back again. Julia has been performing stand-up comedy since she was too young to get into comedy clubs. She's opened for notable humans including Amy Miller, Yamaneika Saunders, and Jay Larson, and performed at iconic venues including Chicago Laugh Factory and the Vermont Comedy Club, as well as numerous other shows in the Burlington area. She puts on Pop Up Stand Up, a series of comedy showcases to benefit local charities.

Julia DiFerdinando has been re-scheduled from our Sept. 30 show. Julia is a Vermonter and comedian. After touring and teaching comedy for over 10 years with the world famous Second City in Chicago, in 2018 she returned to Vermont to be the creative director at

the Vermont Comedy Club, where she developed all programming and artistic content for the groundbreaking theater. Teaching and performing comedy has taken her around the world, most notably to Birmingham, San Francisco, and Beijing.

A former Vermonter, Ash Diggs is now a Brooklyn-based comedian who has been featured on Means TV, Don't Tell Comedy, and Union Hall. He has performed across the country, earning the right to open for some of his heroes such as Ilana Glazer, Tim Meadows, Joyelle Johnson, Moshe Kasher, Cameron Esposito, and more.

Alex Duval is a Burlington-based standup comedian. Originally from Kansas City, Alex began his performing career as a professional classical musician before deciding to shift into standup comedy, a lifelong dream of his. Alex has recently opened for Jamie Lee (Ted Lasso), Dana Gould (The Simpsons), and Shane Torres (Comedy Central), and was a finalist in the 2023 Vermont's Funniest Comedian competition. Alex also produces and hosts a monthly comedy showcase and a monthly open mic at Four Quarters Brewery in Winooski.

Levi Silverstein is a Bur-

lington-based comic who has performed at numerous clubs in Seattle and, more recently, the Vermont Comedy Club in Burlington. He has opened for national headliners such as Gabe Rutledge, Daniel Eachus, and Jason Cheny. He can be seen performing regularly at shows around Burlington, and was a semi-finalist in this year's Vermont's Funniest Comedian Contest.

Host Gordon Clark is proof that you can teach an old dog new tricks. A lifelong organizer and activist, he took up comedy when he was nearing 60, and never looked back. Mostly because it hurts his neck when he turns that way. Gordon is the director of the nonprofit Vermont Comedy All Stars, through which he produces and hosts monthly standup comedy showcase specials in Burlington (at the iconic Nectar's) and Montpelier (Bent Nails Bistro), as well as the quarterly showcase here at the Next Stage Arts Theater in Putney. He lives in Burlington with his wife, dog, and cat.

Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, Vt. All talks are free to attend, but donations are appreciated. Advance registration is available at [www.nextstagearts.org](http://www.nextstagearts.org). For information, call 802-387-0102.

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

**FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER**  
5:30 PM TO 7:00 PM

**December 1, 2023**

**BAKED HADDOCK**  
Rice Pilaf, Vegetable, Salad, Roll & Butter

*Hosted by the American Legion*

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

*Cmdr. Pete Squires  
PR Smokey Aumand*

**Meet & Greet:**  
Susan Evans McClure,  
Executive Director,  
VT Arts Council

**Rockingham Free Public Library, 3rd FL**  
Monday, Nov. 27  
9:30-10:30 am

**Co-hosted:**  
VT Creative Network/  
Southern Zone,  
RAMP, Rockingham Free Public Library, RIDWG (Rockingham Incremental Working Group), Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance

The library is wheelchair accessible. Call in advance with any questions 802-463-4270

**Please RSVP to:** [ramp@sover.net](mailto:ramp@sover.net)  
Subject line: 11/27 event or call 802-463-3252

**BREWFEST BEVERAGE CO.**  
Main Street, Ludlow, VT  
[brewfestbeverage.com](http://brewfestbeverage.com) 802-228-4261

IPA Sours Rarities

Extensive Wine Selection

802 Spirits

**Holiday Gift Packs Now Available**

Take GOOD BEER Home!

**J&H Sporting Goods**

**Ladies Night**  
Friday Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm

**20% Off**  
All In stock Merchandies\*

\* See store for list of excluded items.

**J&H HARDWARE**  
Hardware, Paint, Housewares, Electrical & Plumbing

**Join us for the Third Annual Customer Appreciation Weekend**  
Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 2 and 3

Visit these businesses on The Green in Chester for Sales, Specials, Giveaways, and Treats!

**SHARON'S ON THE COMMON**

**Sharon's on the Common**  
80 The Common  
802-875-3000  
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10% Off All Weekend

**Chester Candy Company**

**Chester Candy Company**  
78 The Common  
802-875-7070  
[chestercandy@vermontel.net](mailto:chestercandy@vermontel.net)  
10% Off All Weekend

**The Maple Room**

**The Maple Room**  
78 The Common  
802-875-7070  
[chestercandy@vermontel.net](mailto:chestercandy@vermontel.net)  
10% Off All Weekend

**COMMON STREET MARKET**

**Common Street Market**  
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54 The Common  
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78 The Common  
802-875-SAGE

**KitKat's Embroidery & More**

**Kit Kat's Embroidery**  
[kitkatsembroidery@gmail.com](mailto:kitkatsembroidery@gmail.com)  
78 The Common  
802-875-2044  
10% Off store wide & 20% off select items

**SONGBIRD WELLNESS**

**Songbird Wellness**  
[www.songbirdwellnesschester.com](http://www.songbirdwellnesschester.com)  
34 School Street, Suite E  
631-800-6317

**Fischer Arts**

**Fischer Arts**  
[www.fischer-arts.com](http://www.fischer-arts.com)  
102 The Common  
802-875-1260

Thank you for supporting your local Chester businesses!



# holiday happenings

## Christmas Bazaar

WESTON, Vt. – If you have chosen to spend your Thanksgiving weekend amidst the tranquility and stark beauty of Vermont’s “stick season,” it doesn’t mean you don’t have access to a superior shopping experience. On Friday, Nov. 24, and Saturday, Nov. 25, Weston’s Christmas Bazaar will again take place for its 42nd year. Hours are 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., and as always, there is no admission charge. Over the years, the level of merchandise has evolved from mere trinkets to magnificent treasures.

The 2023 Bazaar will take place at the Walker Farm Theater while the regular venue, the Weston Playhouse, remains closed for repairs from the July floods. The devastation of the Playhouse was monumental; simply clearing the building approached a half million

dollars. The reconstruction will not simply be “put back,” but will buttress the Playhouse in the recognition that “storms of the century” may become the new normal. In fact, all proceeds from booth rentals and the accompanying raffle will go toward funding those repairs. You’ll find the Walker Farm on the East side of Route 100, on the north edge of Weston Village.

Walker Farm will be completely full with vendors both days; all are local or regional artisans with their skills on display. There’s lots of merchandise that is Christmas-related: gifts (including for yourself), decorations, and beautiful wreaths. Artisanal food vendors will offer everything from honey and jam to Christmas shortbread. You’ll find lots of winter clothing items, Vermont

artwork and jewelry, as well as health and wellness products. It’s the gift shopping equivalent of “farm to table” in a delightful Vermont village.

Lunch will be available from Junior’s popular food truck, with hot foods and “hand-helds,” as well as lighter items on the menu. The raffle prizes will include a \$200 gift certificate to the Vermont County Store, a gorgeous framed full-color print by artist Mark Martins donated by the West Town Gallery, and everybody’s favorite, vendor’s choice – one item donated by each vendor, winner takes all.

Black Friday? Make it Green (Mountain) Friday and come to the Weston Christmas Bazaar. You’ll be glad you did.

## “SEASONS: Winter” at Springfield’s Downtown Holiday Program

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Avant Vermont Dance will debut “SEASONS: Winter,” the third installment of the “SEASONS” series, on Friday, Dec. 1, at 5 p.m., as part of Springfield’s Downtown Holiday Program.



Performers with Avant Vermont Dance perform the last entry in the SEASONS series.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Performing at Woodbury Courtyard on Main Street – the brick plaza adjacent to the traffic light – a company of regional dancers will showcase new works of contemporary ballet from choreographer Ashley Hensel-Browning set to the “Winter” variations from Vivaldi’s “The Four Seasons,” as reworked by Max Richter. The family-friendly presentation runs approximately 15 minutes, and celebrates the interplay between darkness and light as we move into the shortest days of the year.

Spectators are encouraged to enjoy Springfield’s entire Downtown Holiday Program, including Springfield on the Move’s sticker walk at 4 p.m., music by the Springfield Community Band at 5:30, and Springfield Chamber of Commerce’s tree lighting and visit from Santa at 6 p.m.

Set in various outdoor locations across Springfield’s historic downtown, Avant Vermont’s yearlong “SEASONS” series was created to serve as a “love letter to place” by exploring the seasons of the community through art. “SEASONS: Summer” debuted in June at Comtu Cascade Park, followed by “SEASONS: Autumn” in September. The series will conclude in March with “SEASONS: Spring.”

Funding for “SEASONS” has generously been provided by the Vermont Arts Council, The Byrne Foundation, and Claremont Savings Bank Foundation, with support from the Town of Springfield, Springfield on the Move, and the Dance Factory.

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## Forest Service offers online Christmas tree permits

REGION – U.S. Forest Service officials in Vermont are welcoming the public to select and cut a Christmas tree in the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) with the purchase of a permit. Permits are now available for purchase either online at [www.recreation.gov/tree-](http://www.recreation.gov/tree-)

permits/gmfl (an additional service fee applies), or in person at our GMNF offices in Manchester or Rochester, Vt. Full rules and regulations concerning tree cutting can also be found at this website.

In support of the Every Kid Outdoors initiative, this

year the Forest Service will again provide fourth grade students with a free Christmas tree voucher by registering at [www.everykidoutdoors.gov](http://www.everykidoutdoors.gov). Fourth graders who register must present a printed voucher to redeem a Christmas tree permit.

## Community Christmas events

W. WINDSOR, Vt. – Plans are all set for the West Windsor Community Christmas Celebrations on the weekends of Dec. 2 and Dec. 17, and a beautiful Christmas Eve Candle Light Service on Dec. 24.

Starting on Saturday, Dec. 2, there will be the much-anticipated Brownsville Community Church Christmas Bazaar, with crafts and bake sale, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., and luncheon from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the town hall. There will be live music as well to enjoy while you shop.

Lighting at 4 p.m. Before the trees are lit, there’s a very good chance that there will be a visit to town by Mr. and Mrs. Claus. You’ll find festive, light refreshments and a glowing fire pit to warm you inside and out when you get there.

The day will wrap up with a live Christmas Nativity at 5 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., at the Brownsville Community Church pavilion, 66 Brownsville Hartland Road. Accompanying the two live Nativity pageants, there will be live music and live animals, too.

Enjoy a free Christmas Concert on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 4:30 p.m., at the Brownsville Community Church.

On Sunday, Dec. 24, there will be the Christmas Eve Candle Light Service at the Brownsville Community Church.

Contact the Brownsville Community Church at [bcchurchvt@gmail.com](mailto:bcchurchvt@gmail.com) with questions.

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# health & wellness

## Ludlow Health Center reopens

LUDLOW, Vt. – After a period of closure due to historic flooding, North Star Health is thrilled to announce the reopening of Ludlow Health Center and Ludlow Dental Center, which have resumed vital healthcare and dental services for the Ludlow community.

The devastating flood necessitated an extensive cleanup and restoration process to ensure the safety and wellbeing of patients and staff. The flooding was limited to basements, and significantly compromised the HVAC, electrical, and communication systems. Today, North Star staff is delighted to welcome patients back to a fully restored health and dental center.

Trish Brown, FNP-C, a long time provider with North Star Health, expressed her feelings on the reopening, saying, “The flood was a heart-wrenching setback for all of us, but I am excited to reopen

and continue serving our patients. The health and wellness of our patients is at the core of what we do, and I am eager to resume practicing in Ludlow.”

During the closure, the North Star Mobile Health Services Unit was stationed in Ludlow to address acute care needs, ensuring that the community continued to receive essential medical services. Primary care and dental patients were temporarily redirected to the Springfield Health Center and Chester Dental Center, demonstrating our commitment to maintaining continuity of care during challenging times.

First and foremost, North Star wants to express heartfelt thanks to their patients for their understanding and flexibility during this temporary disruption.

CEO Josh Dufresne remarked, “While the damage to our sites was significant, we humbly acknowledge that many in the area have faced even

greater losses from the devastating flooding. The resilience of our small community has been truly inspiring. We are grateful for the unwavering support from our patients, the hard work of the construction teams, and the adaptability of our staff. We are excited to reopen with a renewed commitment to connect with and care for our community.”

The work completed by K.C.K Electric, Modern Mechanical Solutions, Control Technologies, Smith Enterprises, and North Star’s own IT department contributed to the functional integrity of the sites, and adheres to the highest standards of safety and operational efficiency.

Ludlow Health Center and Ludlow Dental are both now fully operational – ready to serve the community’s health and dental needs.

## Ludlow Rotary Club tours Divided Sky

LUDLOW, Vt. – On Nov. 7, Divided Sky Foundation invited the Ludlow Rotary Club for a delightful lunch and fellowship. Following lunch, our Rotarian Melanie Gulde, program director, explained how Divided Sky came about, the need, and the program. Rotarians were given a tour of the facility. What a beautiful and serene setting, inside and out. Many attending lunch recalled the previous usages of the facility, including the original Hole #1 of the old Fox Run Golf Course. To fully and correctly explain this wonderful facility and program, the following is from the Divided Sky website.

“Trey Anastasio of the band Phish founded the Divided Sky Foundation. As a person in recovery, he recognizes the need for holistic services to heal and start a new and better way of living. They raised over one million dollars for the foundation with The Beacon Jams collective of shows during the pandemic. At The Divided Sky Resi-



Ludlow Rotary members tour the Divided Sky facility. PHOTO PROVIDED

dential Recovery Program, we have created a program for people who want recovery. Our non-clinical model is designed to motivate and inspire without judgment. We recognize that addiction is a disease, and not an absence of willpower.

At The Divided Sky Residential Recovery Program, we teach our guests to make positive changes, and work toward the best versions of themselves. Being in recovery means being proactive in one’s life. Guests learn the importance of setting boundaries, being honest

with themselves and others, and designing a healthy and stable life free from mood-altering substances. Contact us by completing our online form, or calling 888-318-2499, to learn if The Divided Sky Residential Recovery Program is the right place for you or a loved one to take charge of life.”

Divided Sky is located in Ludlow, Vt., and is open to all. Good luck and thank you, Trey and dedicated staff. Learn more at [www.dividedskyfoundation.com](http://www.dividedskyfoundation.com).

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## Ludlow Rotary learns about the Memory Café

LUDLOW, Vt. – Ludlow Rotarians learned about the Black River Memory Café at the Nov. 14 lunch meeting at DJ’s Restaurant. Memory Cafés offer a support group for caregivers and folks

dealing with dementia. The group focuses on enabling both to have conversations about memory problems. Research shows that Memory Cafés enhance the wellbeing of caregivers and those

suffering memory losses by providing them with an environment filled with acceptance and belonging. The café meets on the second Thursday of the month at the Ludlow Community Center.

## FWN: Medicare scams

REGION – While some current scams can be viewed as “age specific,” others can impact nearly every demographic: Medicare, charities, and more.

Medicare recipients are likely aware that “open

enrollment” for Medicare takes place between Oct. 15 and Dec. 15. For insurance companies this is a high stakes time. It is also a time when criminals are very active. Here are some tips for navigating the open enrollment landscape:

1. The best tool available for identifying coverage plans is the website [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov), which provides detailed information on all available plans in your state allowing comparisons of costs and benefits. Companies offering coverage often have several plans, and while you can get details by contacting them directly, they will only tell you what they offer. The Medicare website saves you from contacting multiple companies. Also, expect numerous follow-up calls or messages from those

companies if you contact them individually.

2. Criminals are seeking to take advantage of seniors by posing as Medicare agents. These imposters identify themselves as officials with Medicare and are looking for two things: money and information. A caller may state that there is a problem with your Medicare account, there are free benefits you can access, you are eligible for a new Medicare card; the list goes on. Medicare does not contact beneficiaries by phone, text message, or email unless you have an existing connection or issue being addressed. If someone reaches out to you in any of these ways, report the contact by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (800-633-4227). For detailed, accurate information, contact the Senior Medicare Patrol for your state: New Hampshire at [www.servicelink.nh.gov/fraud/index.htm](http://www.servicelink.nh.gov/fraud/index.htm) or 866-634-9412; and Vermont at [www.vermontelders.org](http://www.vermontelders.org) or 888-865-2683.

Elliott Greenblatt is a retired educator and coordinator of the AARP Vermont Fraud Watch Network. He hosts a CATV program, Mr. Scammer, distributed by GNAT-TV in Sunderland, VT – [www.gnat-tv.org](http://www.gnat-tv.org)

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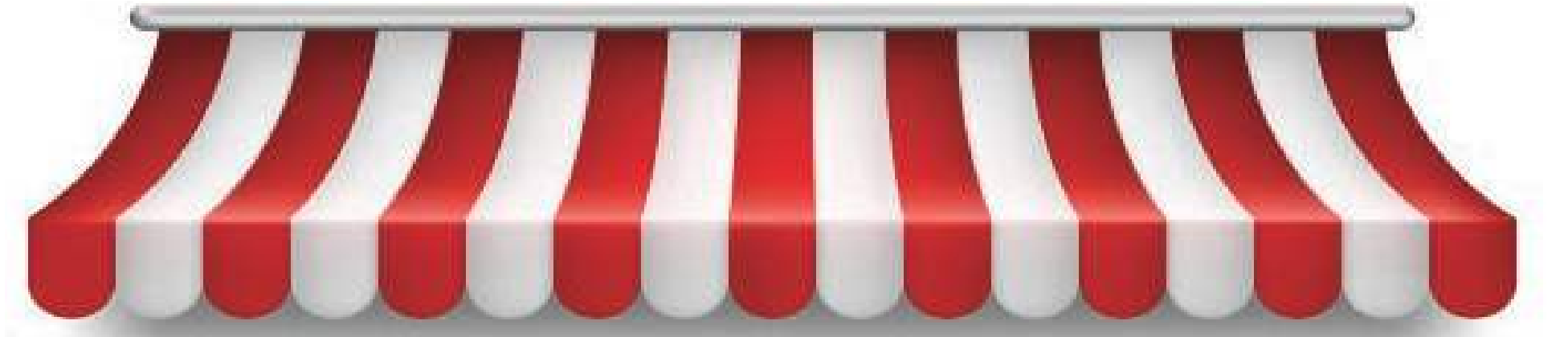
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