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## Benefit golf tournament set for Vermont state trooper battling brain cancer

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Vermont State Trooper, Army veteran and new dad Dan Marcellus was diagnosed in October with an inoperable, malignant brain tumor and is currently undergoing long-term treatment. He has served his country and the State of Vermont for a combined 17 years. Dan and his wife Jessica, a nurse, recently welcomed their first child, a baby boy named Sawyer Daniel. The unexpected expenses related to a serious illness can be overwhelming and this tournament is intended to help ease the financial burden for this young couple.

Vermont State Police has teamed up with Crown Point Country Club in Springfield, along with many area businesses and community members, for a benefit golf tournament on May 21, 2017, to raise funds for Dan and his family during this difficult time. The community is asked to join us in this effort by becoming a tournament sponsor, or giving a donation in any amount. A raffle and silent auction will also be held at the tournament and donations of goods and/or services are needed and will be gratefully accepted. Tournament committee members will arrange for pick-up of all donated items or gift certificates.

Sponsor levels are: Gold \$1000, Silver \$500, Bronze \$250, VSP Super Sponsor \$100, Hole Sponsor \$50. And again, donations of any dollar amount or donations of goods and/or services are welcomed.

Law enforcement agencies and first



Trooper Dan Marcellus.

PHOTO PROVIDED

responders from throughout the state will be sending teams to the tournament in a show of support for Dan and his family. Please support the efforts of these men and women who serve their communities selflessly, each and every day.

Please make checks payable to: 236 Benefit Fund c/o Susan Lockerby, 734 Saxtons River Rd., Saxtons River, VT

05154.

If you would like to inquire further about this event or need a pick-up of donated goods or services, please contact Susan Lockerby at 802-869-3175, email susan-lockerby@comcast.net, or contact Lt. Anthony French, Vermont State Police, Westminster Barracks, at 802-722-4600. Thank you.

## Municipal Manager status focal point of meeting

BY JOEL SLUTSKY

The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - Motions passed at a March 28 Joint Board meeting to authorize the Select Board Chair Lamont Barnett to negotiate with Shaun O'Keefe, the Interim Municipal Manager, for an extension. The approved motion would potentially allow for a one-year contract with a return to the boards for approval. The contract would run from July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018, with criteria to be discussed.

Select Board member Ann DiBernardo asked if this negotiation would take place in executive session and Barnett stated that it most likely would. Additionally, Barnett indicated that this item could be put on the next Select Board agenda for further discussion. O'Keefe assumed his interim municipal managerial role in November 2016 and recently had his contract extended until July 1, 2017. O'Keefe commented on the potential contract, saying that he was open to an extended position partly because with more experience he would be better able to hire a financial manager.

Barnett opened the meeting stating that, in his opinion the Joint Board had three options - 1) to hire a firm such as the Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VCLT) to perform the process; 2) to conduct the process in-house; or 3) to extend O'Keefe's contract for a year to allow the Joint Board to do a more thorough search

and to allow O'Keefe to hire a finance director and have the necessary time to bring this person up to speed prior to a new manager being hired.

O'Keefe was given an estimate of \$45,000-\$60,000 from VCLT to conduct the hiring process. Barnett restated that another option was to have committees convened to be involved in the process, which would involve a lot of staff time.

Prior to the vote several Select Board and Trustee members expressed their opinion. Select Board member Ann DiBernardo said, "We said that we would have an interim manager position and then vote to choose a new manager." She also reminded the boards of concerns she has heard from some members of the community concerning the fact that "O'Keefe left ten years ago and received a payoff." Select Board member Susan Hammond felt that there needed to be an open discussion with the public. Hammond continued, "We can't just keep extending this position, we need a plan."

Select Board/Trustee member Stefan Golec stated that he would like to see the process move forward and would be in favor of hiring a manager with a one-year contract. Trustee Chair Myles Mickle stated that he is not opposed to a multi-year contract. Trustee member Colin James stated that he would prefer a one-year extension on O'Keefe's contract. Hammond asked what the timeline would be for the hiring process and Barnett stated

most likely three months. O'Keefe disagreed and noted that the advertising alone would most likely run for a month, then go through the initial interviews, final interviews, and once someone is hired this person would most likely be required to give a 60-day notice.

James mentioned that with town elections coming up in a month and a half, "some of us may not be here" to have input in the process. Myles Mickle, Evelyn Weeks and Colin James's terms expire in May of this year.

The position of municipal manager in the Town of Rockingham has seen a lot of changes of personnel over the years. Administrative Assistant Kerry Bennet shared that during her 21 years of employment O'Keefe is the ninth municipal manager. Previous Municipal Manager Chip Stearns also served as the financial manager. His departure was imbued with concerns primarily about the removal of the remains of the Bartonville Bridge, but the settlement of his departure was mutually agreed upon.

Prior to Stearns's departure, Municipal Manager Tim Cullen was relieved of his duties and has settled a suit with the Town of Rockingham.

The minutes of this meeting can be read by going to [www.rockbf.org](http://www.rockbf.org) and clicking on the Joint Board tab. The entire meeting can be watched at [www.fact8.com](http://www.fact8.com).

## New principal assumes position at Kurn Hattin

BY JOEL SLUTSKY

The Shopper

WESTMINSTER, Vt. - Sergio Simunovic began his tenure as principal of Kurn Hattin Homes for Children on March 6, 2017. Simunovic resides in Putney with his wife and two children and brings his talents gained in an eleven year position at the Greenwood School in Putney. At the school he taught many subjects including math, science and lived on campus as a dorm parent.

During the last couple of years Simunovic said, "I served as an academic dean and primary administrator at the school, a role that is similar to what I do here as principal. I was also involved with a summer program for juniors and seniors at Landmark College in Putney," where he gave a presentation on challenges and opportunities for students with learning disabilities.

Simunovic told The Shopper, "Kurn Hattin incorporates great opportunities for the children and is in a residential setting that I am comfortable with. I had heard amazing things about Kurn Hattin - its reputation precedes it. The school has even exceeded my expectations; it blew me away. When I saw this opportunity and the chance to deal with the whole student in the residential setting, I applied. Kurn Hattin has a great team."



New Principal of Kurn Hattin, Sergio Simunovic.

PHOTO BY JOEL SLUTSKY

Simunovic said he will apply his expertise in helping students with their transition past secondary school to prepare the students for what's next, as well as his mathematical skills. He concluded the interview by saying, "I've already had an amazing few weeks at the school, it is a wonderful school and my involvement is straight from the heart."

Executive director of Kurn Hattin Stephen Harrison stated, "We were excited when we interviewed Sergio Simunovic, because he had the combination of the full range of skills and experience we were seeking. He had worked in an independent school with children whose educa-

tional needs required significant individual differentiation; he had residential experience in that school, and had worked specifically on curriculum development and instructional evaluation as an academic dean. The icing on the cake for us was that he lived locally, knew Kurn Hattin already, and had a calm, firm demeanor that works well with both our students and faculty. We are thrilled to have him on board!"

Established in 1894, Kurn Hattin Homes for Children in Westminster, Vt., is a charitable home and school for boys and girls, ages 6-15, who are affected by tragedy, social or economic hardship, or other disruptions in family life.

## Marimba! SHS acquires new instrument

BY KAREN ENGDAHL

The Shopper

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - After legendary Springfield High School music teacher Isabella Erickson died in 2016, current music teacher Jim Chlebak wanted to do something special with the memorial funds donated in her honor.

"I thought about it for a long time," said Chlebak. "I wanted to get something durable - something that would last and be used by students for years to come. She was a pianist above all else, so I wanted to get something with a keyboard, a beautiful instrument. The marimba fits the bill perfectly."

Chlebak noted that while the marimba is traditionally part of the percussion section, many music students make use of the marimba.

"We've used it to play jazz and Nashville chord progressions," he said. "The keys are big and easy to identify so it's a great introduction to the keyboard for beginners. We're featuring the marimba in our Spring Arts Festival Concert on May 18."

Chlebak and his wife have commissioned their son, Nicolas Chlebak, a noted musician/composer in his own right, to write a marimba concerto for the event.

"The concerto is for marimba, snare, and timpani," said Chlebak, "and will feature students AJ Aldrich, Lina Geyer, and Ben Parent."

The marimba is a percussion instrument consisting of a set of

wooden bars struck with mallets to produce musical tones. Resonators suspended underneath the bars amplify their sound. The bars of a marimba are arranged like the keys of a piano, with the groups of two and three accidentals raised vertically, overlapping the natural bars to aid the performer both visually and physically.

The marimba was developed in

Central America by African slaves and descended from its ancestral balafon instrument, which was also built by African slaves. Marimba is now the national instrument of Guatemala and Costa Rica.

"It has a great sound," says Chlebak, "and we're excited to present it in a world premiere concerto this May. I think Isabella Erickson would really like it."



SHS music teacher, Jim Chlebak, plays the marimba.

PHOTO BY KAREN ENGDAHL

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# Underwater Easter egg hunt at Edgar May

BY KAREN ENGDAHL

The Shopper

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - An excited mob of 2-, 3-, and 4-year-olds waited at the edge of the pool at Edgar May Health and Rec Center Director Christian Craig explained the rules of the Underwater Easter Egg hunt recently.

"There are lots of eggs in the pool," he said. "Some are full of just air, some have pennies in them, and some have dollar coins. If you get one with a dollar coin, you get a special prize."

While parents nodded appreciatively about the prizes, the kids seemed unimpressed. They just wanted to get in the water and start retrieving the colorful eggs. When the signal was finally given, they splashed, jumped, and ran to find the underwater treasures while the Easter



Sarah Tilden, Youth and Family programs coordinator.

PHOTO BY KAREN ENGDAHL

Bunny patrolled the deck, nodding encouragement.

The 2- to 4-year-olds comprised the first heat of the event, which was



Egg hunters searching the pool.

PHOTO BY KAREN ENGDAHL



The Easter Bunny greets egg hunters.

PHOTO BY KAREN ENGDAHL

organized to offer egg hunting opportuni-

ties to swimmers in different age groups. More than 1,200 eggs were hidden in the pools, providing plenty of chances to splash and search for eggs.

"This year we have more than 90 kids signed up for the event," said Sarah Tilden, coordinator of youth and family programs for the Edgar May. "It's a great chance for kids to have some fun in the pool and learn about other programs we offer."

Kids finding the eggs containing dollar coins exchanged them for prizes such as a birthday pool party

package, swim lessons, and a youth membership at the facility. All kids received goodie bags full of fun prizes at the close of the event.

The Edgar May Health and Recreation Center provides small group swimming lessons that allow participants to build confidence and attain skills in a safe and fun environment. Children as young as 6 months can start learning water skills with parents in the Parent and Toddler Class; other classes for kids include Intro to Water Skills, Fundamental Aquatic Skills, and Stroke Development. By maintaining low instructor-to-student ratios, swimmers are able to receive more individualized instruction and support. All Edgar May instructors are American Red Cross WSI certified.

More information about classes and programs at the Edgar May Center is available at its website, [www.myreccenter.org](http://www.myreccenter.org).

# Trail connections between Pinnacle Lands and Rockingham topic at meeting

BY JOEL SLUTSKY

The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - A new initiative to connect the Bellows Falls Historic Riverfront Park and Trail System to the Bald Hill Reserve in Westminster and develop more local hiking and biking trails in Rockingham was deliberated at a March 29 public hearing. According to Vanessa Stern of Westminster, a board of trustees member of the Windham Hill Pinnacle Association, the meet-

ing sparked much local interest, with approximately 50 attendees sharing their views. Stern characterized the public forum as a success.

According to the Pinnacle website, "The newly formed Saxtons River Valley Trail Initiative is a collaboration between the Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association, the Bald Hill Conservation Committee, and the Rockingham Conservation Commission. Members from these groups are exploring the possibilities of connecting the Bellows Falls Historic Riverfront Park and Trail System to the Bald Hill trails in Westminster, and then continuing on to Saxtons River and beyond. The ultimate hope is to connect this expanded trail system with the larger, established Windmill Hill Pinnacle system of over 25 miles of trails that runs from Putney Mountain to Grafton. Initiative members are eager for suggestions and support to move this project forward."

According to Rockingham Conservation Commission member and Saxtons River resident Peter Bergstrom, "We are also working with the Bellows Falls Community Bike Project, the Bellows Falls Historical Society, health and wellness groups, and more partners." Bergstrom add-



Public forum on local trails on March 29.

PHOTO BY PETER BERGSTROM

ed, "We plan to apply for a National Park Service grant to support trail development."

Bergstrom continued, "The main thing I learned at this meeting was that there is a lot of interest in hiking in the Bellows Falls Village Forest, which is west of Darby Hill Road. Not only did many people want to hike in the forest, but some also saw it as a way to travel east-west in Rockingham away from busy highways (routes 121 and 103). Darby Hill Road appears to be the only other place to cross I-91 until you go north almost to Springfield. The log-

ging roads in the village forest may connect to Hall Bridge and/or Paradise Hill roads, which would allow access west along 121 from there. I was already researching trails in the village forest and will continue that, and will discuss holding a public hike there with Bellows Falls officials."

The Windham Hill Pinnacle Association's website <http://www.windmillhillpinnacle.org/> is a good source of information on this project. One may also contact organizer Vanessa Stern at (802)463-4948 for more information.

# BF Woman's Club

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - The Bellows Falls Woman's Club members will hold their April 11 meeting at Bellows Falls Union High School. The traditional club sponsored art show is not happening this year. However, the club members should arrive at the school at 11:30 a.m.

The Family and Consumer Science students will host a luncheon at noon. The band will entertain following that. A small entrance fee

will be collected to help defray the expenses of the luncheon.

The March 14 meeting of the club was canceled due to bad weather; the planned program on women's heart health will be presented in the fall.

Plans for the club's high tea are being finalized to be held in the Windham Hotel lobby on May 7 from 3 - 5 p.m. Tickets are available at Simone's Beauty Shop, Village Square Book-sellers, and from member Barbara

Whitehead. Refreshments will include fancy teas, sweets, and savories. Background music will be provided.

There will be a raffle of two baskets of "Shop and Dine Local" gift certificates, with each basket being worth \$200. Proceeds from the event are earmarked for the high school scholarship, which will be presented to a graduating BFUHS student pursuing education in a health care field.

# M&M Carriage House Creations

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - M&M Carriage House Creations, 3 West-

minster St., is reopening April 6 starting at 10:30 a.m. with a ribbon-cutting. The shop specializes in unique, vintage, not-so-old, one-of-a-kind, reclaimed treasures and vin-

tage furniture with a country-rustic flair.

Come see what's new (or old). More at the website, [mncarriagehousecreations.com](http://mncarriagehousecreations.com).

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# Greater Falls business owners challenge

REGION - Since the Boys and Girls Club in Bellows Falls was closed in June of last year, over 50 children no longer have a place to gather for activities after school. Loss of grant support for the Brattleboro B&G Club seriously impacted our community, making it no longer feasible to provide a safe haven for after-school activities in Bellows Falls.

Friends for Change Youth Group of Bellows Falls is creating a new safe place for this, but they need our help. Now that they are part of Youth Services, a non-profit organization, they can now raise funds to make this a reality. It will take them some time, and our children need this sooner than

later. Their needs include space expenses, sufficient paid and volunteer qualified staff to provide leadership and guidance of its members. Supervised activities, offering the maximum number of hours for members is the plan, to enable all young people in the Greater Falls/Bellows Falls/Rockingham area, especially those who need it most, to help them reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

I present a challenge that should not be hard to meet. Green Mountain Traffic Control challenges all Greater Falls business owners to match our first \$1,000 through the end of April 2017. If all our efforts reach at least

\$10,000 in funding, GMTC will top it off with an additional \$1,000!

To help in this challenge and get an important project for our youth off the ground, go to:

<https://www.youcaring.com/friendsforchangeyouthclub>

You can find it on the Friends for Change Youth Group of Bellows Falls Facebook page. You can also send your challenge donations to: PO Box 6008, Brattleboro, Vt. 05301

There will be a community-wide meeting on April 27, 2017 at 6 p.m. at the Rockingham Free Public Library. Please help; our future needs it.

# SRDC announces staff promotions

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Springfield Regional Development Corporation (SRDC) Executive Director Bob Flint announced that two long-time SRDC employees have been promoted to new positions. Heather Hartford now serves as SRDC's Assistant Director, and Paul Kowalski has been named the Senior Project Manager.

Hartford is a native of Springfield and has been with SRDC since 2014. In her role as a Project Manager, she has overseen the construction of the new Blake Hill Preserves facility in Windsor, the recent renovations to the Robert S. Jones Industrial Center in Springfield, and is coordinating the redevelopment of the former Bryant Grinder property.

Kowalski has been a Project Manager for SRDC since 2013. He administered the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Relief program that provided assistance to businesses that were impacted by Tropical Storm Irene. Currently, Paul is working with Windsor Improvement Corporation on a variety of projects in that community.

Flint indicated that these promotions illustrate the importance of Hartford and Kowalski to SRDC. "Heather and Paul are key members of the SRDC team. We are grateful for their talents and passion for the region," Flint said.



Paul Kowalski and Heather Hartford.

PHOTO PROVIDED

# Samirah Evans and Scott Mullett at Kurn Hattin Homes' Jazz Invitational

WESTMINSTER, Vt. - On Wednesday, April 12 at 7 p.m., Kurn Hattin Homes for Children in Westminster will host their Annual Kurn Hattin Jazz Invitational. Master of Ceremonies will be Eugene Uman the Director of the Vermont Jazz Center in Brattleboro. Performing ensembles include Northfield Mount Herman

Jazz Ensemble, Vermont Academy Jazz Ensemble, Putney School Jazz Ensemble, Dylan Chambers Jazz Ensemble, Alyssa Leonard Jazz Ensemble, and Kurn Hattin Jazz Ensemble.

Featured guests include vocalist Samirah Evans and the Keene Jazz Orchestra under the direction of Scott Mullett.

Please join us for an exciting night of jazz featuring some of the best talent in the area. Admission is a canned good to be donated to the local food shelf at Our Place in Bellows Falls.

For more information, please contact Lisa Bianconi at 802-721-6931 or [lbianconi@kurnhattin.org](mailto:lbianconi@kurnhattin.org)

# Bag Sale at Worn Again Thrift Shop

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. - The Worn Again Thrift Shop at St. Edmunds Catholic Church on Main Street in Saxtons River is having a Bag Sale on Friday, April 7 and Saturday, April 8 during regular business hours. There is a small fee for the Bag Sale, which excludes jewelry.

The shop has a variety of women's, men's and children's clothing, and footwear. The shop also has an excellent selection of clothing for men, women and children, shoes, boots and sneakers, caps, socks, and other wearing apparel for all ages. In addition there are sheets and pillow cas-

es, blankets, bed spreads, pillows, fabrics, many books, coffee mugs, and knickknacks.

The thrift shop is in need of bags, paper and plastic. So please bring along any bags you can spare. For those who wish to donate clothing or other thrift shop goods, donations may be dropped off during regular business hours. The Worn Again Thrift Shop is run by volunteers from the West River Mission of Putney with churches in Putney, Townshend, Stratton Mountain and Saxtons River.

# Townshend Farmers Market vendor applications due

TOWNSHEND, Vt. - The Townshend Farmers Market is looking for more vendors for the upcoming season. This is a wonderful medium sized market which offers up, along with some great vendors, freshly baked pizza from a community built outdoor oven, a variety of different kinds of live music, and kids' cooking classes.

It is located behind the West Townshend Country Store, and is part of the West River Commu-

nity Project, a non-profit dedicated to promoting local, agricultural, economic and social activities. The market runs from May 26, until October 6, 2017.

Vendor applications are now due on April 15 (an extension from April 1) and are available at the West Townshend Store. You can also get them online at [www.westtownshend.org](http://www.westtownshend.org). Please direct any questions to Judy Harrigan at [farmers@West-Townshend.org](mailto:farmers@West-Townshend.org).

# Business ownership succession workshop coming up

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - An introduction to business ownership succession planning will be offered on Tuesday, May 2 from 2 - 5 p.m. at The Hartness House Inn, 30 Orchard Street in Springfield, Vermont. Attendees will receive a copy of "An Owner's Guide to Business Succession Planning." There is no cost for this event, but registration is required.

In this seminar, you will learn the basics of how to choose a path for ownership succession in your business. We will take a close look at four different ways of selling a business: to an out-

sider, to family members, to managers or to the larger group of employees. While we will get into some technical details, including an overview of the business valuation process, the focus will be on stories about each path, told via video by owners who have been involved in the sale of Vermont businesses. Our lead presenter will be accountant Jeffrey Graham of Graham & Graham, P.C. with Don Jamison of the Vermont Employee Ownership Center.

Our special guest at this event will be Steve Birge, co-founder of Black River

Produce, who recently completed the succession process.

Attendance is limited to business owners and key managers.

Sponsors of the event are the Regional Development Corporations of Vermont/Springfield Regional Development Corporation, the Vermont Small Business Development Center, Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center and the Vermont Employee Ownership Center, with funding provided by the Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development. To register, please contact Spring-

field Regional Development Corporation at 802-885-3061.

**Vermont Comforts of Home**

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Vermont Comforts of Home is seeking individuals, couples or families willing to open their home and support an older or disabled person who is unable to continue living in their own home. We are looking for Vermonters who are compassionate, patient and creative; who have common sense; and are willing to provide the emotional and physical support needed to keep an individual connected to their community.

Vermont Comforts of Home is currently recruiting for host homes in Orange, Windsor & Windham Counties of Vermont. Host Home Providers are independent contractors who receive a tax free difficulty of care salary for their services, room & board payment, respite funding, training and support.

Vermont Comforts of Home is a joint venture of Lincoln Street Inc. and Upper Valley Services to serve older and disabled individuals in our communities.

For more information or to request an application, send an e-mail of interest to [kwwhite@lincolnstreetinc.org](mailto:kwwhite@lincolnstreetinc.org) or call Katie White at 888-545-9533

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Sale Prices Effective Tuesday, April 4th, 2017 thru Monday, April 10th, 2017

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# Finances and investing

REGION - High debt levels ... lack of savings... the inability to budget - these problems all have several causes, but one of them is almost certainly financial illiteracy. Too many of us just never developed the money management skills necessary to cope with our complicated, and expensive world. But if you have young children, you can teach them some money-smart lessons, and who knows? You could use the opportunity to give yourself a few valuable reminders, too.

Here are some suggestions for a financial "curriculum":

- Save for a goal. In our highly commercialized culture, it's almost inevitable that your children will eventually become somewhat acquisitive. Obviously, it's important to teach them that they can't have everything - and they certainly can't have everything right now. So, once they are old enough to receive an allowance or to earn money in some fashion, encourage them to set a goal for something they want, such as a toy or video

game, and to put money aside every week for that goal. It's also an excellent idea to model this behavior yourself. So if you are considering making a major purchase in the not-too-distant future, such as a car, show your children how you are setting aside money regularly for this purpose, rather than borrowing as much as you can or putting the entire purchase on a credit card.

- Establish a budget. It can be challenging to create a household budget and just as difficult to stick to it - but for most people, it's worth the effort. You'll be doing your children a favor by showing them how you have a certain amount of income and where it goes - mortgage, utilities, groceries, retirement accounts, etc. - each month. Explain to your kids that by staying within your budget, you can help avoid problems such as debt and extra fees tacked onto bills for late payments. You might also want to point out that, as your income rises, you can gain greater flexibility in bud-

getting. Here's the key point: Living within your means pays off in the long run.

- Have fun with investing. It might surprise you, but even young children enjoy learning about the investment process, especially if you explain to them that they can be an owner of a company that makes a product or service they like. You might want to pick such a company and, along with your child, chart its course over time. You could give your child a pretend \$100 bill to "invest" in this company and then see how its value changes, explaining along the way that various factors, such as the popularity of the company's products, the skill of its managers, and so on will affect the stock's price. At some point, you may even wish to purchase real stocks for your child and place them within a custodial account. And you might also want to show your child how your own stocks and other investments are performing. The investment world can be fascinating, and by sharing your enthusiasm for it with your children, you can encourage them to invest throughout their lives.

Knowledge is power. And the more knowledge about finances and investing that you can impart to your children now, the more empowered they will be to make smart financial moves in the future.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.*

# New Board of Education appointees stress school choice, and cutting costs

REGION - Republican Gov. Phil Scott announced the appointment of two new members to Vermont's State Board of Education this week after months of tense relations between policy makers and community activists who say the board is threatening school choice.

John O'Keefe and John Carroll said their primary focus will be cutting costs.

One element of that is providing choice and diversity. The trick, they said, is finding the right balance.

"In principle, school choice is a good thing. ... All monopolies ultimately put their own interests ahead of the consumer. However, tax dollars should be used with a high standard, and spent in a manner that is in complete compliance with private interest," Carroll told Watchdog.

Last year, the board proposed Rule 2200, which attempts to hold private schools to the same standards as public educational systems if they are to receive tuition payments from the state. Proponents say this will increase educational opportunities for special needs and disadvantaged students. Opponents say imposing the rules could shut down independent schools that can't afford to comply with the regulations.

O'Keefe is the town manager of Manchester, home to several of



"I think that school choice and Act 46 can coexist, provided that it's a priority of the state board," said Town Manager of Manchester, John O'Keefe. STOCK PHOTO

Vermont's top independent schools. In December, more than 800 people, including administrators, faculty, parents and other concerned citizens, attended a public hearing at Burr and Burton Academy to question board members about the pending rule change.

"As it stands, Rule 2200 would have a very significant impact on independent schools, and the overall educational system, statewide, not just in the Northshire," O'Keefe told Watchdog. "I support independent schools and school choice. It is one of the things that makes Vermont so

special." Act 46 is another educational policy causing animosity between towns and the state.

The law, enacted in 2015, attempts to cut costs by consolidating school districts. But the Board of Education determined that towns with school choice merging with those not offering choice would lose the choice option. Critics of the law say the result is a loss of school choice as small towns merge with larger districts.

"I think that school choice and Act 46 can coexist, provided that it's a priority of the state board," said O'Keefe.

During town meeting voting earlier this month, 10 consolidation plans were put to a vote. Only six passed, and local school board members are concerned they are running out of time to revise plans before being penalized by the state.

Under Act 46, consolidation is mandatory. The state gave local districts until 2019 to consolidate, but tax credits and merger grants are withheld at greater percentages every year leading up to that deadline, to encourage towns to merge. Towns can vote on local plans, but if they fail agree, in 2019 the board will create a mandatory consolidation plan for those districts. A bipartisan effort to delay Act 46 remains in committee, and it is unlikely the legislation will see a vote. Carroll said Act 46 is a well-intentioned attempt to cut costs, but just combining services won't be enough to achieve savings. "We're not getting to the heart of the problem simply by bulk purchases of janitorial supplies. The money is in the salaries and benefits of teachers. That's 80 percent of educational costs," he noted.

Vermont's education budget takes up 61 percent of local tax revenue, which concerns O'Keefe.

In 2014, Vermont had the sixth highest per-pupil spending of any state, at \$17,000 per student.

"We are currently paying for a Mercedes Benz, but we have the household budget for a Chevrolet," Carroll said. "You can get away with that for a while, but eventually, you'll have a very deep hole."

Article written by Emma Lamberton, a freelance writer for Vermont Watchdog.org

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# LOCAL HISTORY

BY RON PATCH

Ron Patch is a Chester native, Chester Historical Society president, Historian at Olive Branch Lodge #64 and a lifelong antiques dealer. He can be reached at 802-374-0119 or email knotz69@gmail.com

## A Mitchell 300 & Ernie Aumand

The best thing about Vermont's changing seasons is that new seasons usher in new outdoor opportunities. On April 8 trout season begins in Vermont. The ice is still on local ponds so brook fishing will be the only option.

Early trout fishing is seldom productive. The water is high and very cold in early April making the trout sluggish. But that doesn't stop diehards like me and Danny Clemons. We'll look for a small brook and give it a try. If there's snow on the ground we'll try the boat landing in Springfield.

For me there's something magical about being outdoors fishing. You forget all of your worries and focus on the tip of your pole. You hold your line where it comes off the reel between your thumb and forefinger. This technique allows you to feel the faintest twitch of a trout hitting your bait. You concentrate on fishing and nothing else. Time passes you by.

Older local people will remember Ernie Aumand's store in North Walpole in the 1950s-1960s. Ernie carried a complete line of furniture and house wares. In the back of his store he had a well stocked sporting goods store. He had just about anything a hunter or fisherman would need.

Young boys like me would go to Ernie's with their fathers. As your father talked with Ernie you would walk around in amazement at the selection Ernie had. There were racks with dozens and dozens of fish poles. Ernie sold all sorts of reels, lures, fishing vests and firearms. He carried a complete line of fish line, hooks and sinkers. Ernie's was heaven for a young boy.

If you went to Ernie's on a Friday night before the first day of deer season or trout season the place would be packed. Customers would be standing shoulder to shoulder. You'd talk to someone you didn't know but you both had something in common. "Look at this new reel," one would say to the other. "Boy, that's a dandy," would be the reply.

Growing up in my house we always had Outdoor Life and Field & Stream magazines. As a young boy I read every story and every advertisement. I would read an advertisement for guided fishing trips in Ontario where you had to fly in to a remote lake to fish. These advertisements were a delightful fantasy for young boys. What an adventure we would conjure up in our minds. These sporting magazines were a



13 inch Brook trout.

PHOTO BY RON PATCH

"Wish-book" for young boys. One advertisement that caught my eye in those days was for the Garcia Mitchell 300 fishing reel.

Every boy wanted a "300" as they were known. I saved my money and went down to Ernie's and bought a 300 in 1967. I seem to remember it cost me \$16. That reel was every bit as good as I dreamed. My 300 is 50 years old this year. I still use it whenever I go fishing today. Quality never goes out of style.

It was in the early 1970s in late April or early May that I was fishing down at the boat landing in Springfield with Dave Nichols. There were several fishermen there fishing for anything that might bite. Dave and I were fishing just to the left of the boat landing.

I was fishing with nightcrawlers when all of a sudden I got a good hit. The fish was fairly heavy and a good fighter. We soon saw him as I reeled him in. It was a beautiful brook trout that measured just over 13 inches long. All of the fishermen there came to see this unusual catch. There was much discussion as to where he had come from. It was the largest brookie I've ever caught.

No one there had heard of brook trout being caught in this section of the Connecticut River. Well, I took him off the hook and laid him on the ground when Dave said, "You'll never do that again."

About 15 minutes later I got another hit from a smaller fish. Can you imagine our surprise to see another brook trout? Incredible says

it best. The photo with this story is of those two brook trout. They were both very fat trout.

I've always wondered if those brook trout lived in the Connecticut River or had they come into the Connecticut River from the nearby Black River? Perhaps there are other fishermen out there who have had a similar experience. If so I'd love to hear from you.

This week's old saying: "Washington, D.C. is Capitol Punishment."

## Vermont History Day program

REGION - Vermont History Day is an exciting education program that encourages students to develop research and critical thinking skills through the study of history. It also provides students the opportunity to share their projects at the annual state contest. Vermont History Day is affiliated with National History Day.

The program is open to Vermont students in grades five through twelve and home study students ages 10 to 18. Working individually or in small groups (up to 5), students choose a topic related to the National History Day annual theme, which in 2017 is "Taking a Stand in History." The topic can relate to Vermont history, US history, or world history. Students complete a variety of projects including exhibits, websites, dramatic performances, and historic papers.

The entries are judged by local historians, educators, and other professionals at the state contest. Through their work, students gain a deeper understanding of how people, cultures, and events affect the course of history. The state contest is scheduled for Saturday, April 8, 2017 at Montpelier High School. Judging of entries will take place from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

For additional information, contact: Victoria Hughes, Education Coordinator via email at victoria.hughes@vermonthistory.org, or call (802) 828-1413.



Students participate in Vermont History Day. PHOTO PROVIDED BY WWW.VERMONT HISTORY.ORG

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# editorial

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Our "Four Freedoms"

Last year marked the 70th anniversary of post-World War II peace and the beginning of unprecedented economic wellbeing in the U.S., which, as it turns out, may have been unique in our history. It was hard-won, through heartbreak and superhuman effort in two massive war fronts, against ruthless enemies. Many—beaten-down Europeans and optimistic Americans—anticipated a better world in the future.

As the U.S. entered the war in 1941, President Roosevelt addressed Congress on January 6 with his "Four Freedoms" speech. The four freedoms were freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from want, and freedom from fear—"everywhere in the world," FDR added.

Now, as we assess the results of the 2016 presidential election, many are asking themselves: what kind of a nation will we be?

Author and war correspondent John Steinbeck probed that question. His dispatches were published in 1958 as "Once There Was a War."

In 1943 Steinbeck accompanied American troops bound for England, gathering there for the Allied invasion of Europe. Steinbeck listened to their conversations. In a chapter titled "The Shape of the World," he records their feelings and thoughts.

"London, July 16, 1943 - "The soldiers fight and work under a load of worry. ... And almost universally you find among the soldiers not a fear of the enemy but a fear of what is going to happen after the war. ...

"Ours is not a naive Army. Common people have learned a great deal in the last twenty-five years, and the old magical words do not fool them any more. ... They would like freedom from want. That means the little farm in Connecticut is safe from foreclosure. That means the job left when the soldier joined the Army is there waiting, and ... will continue while the children grow up. That means there will be schools, and either savings to take care of illness in the family or medicine available without savings. Talking to many soldiers, it is the worry that comes out of them that is impressive. Is the country to be taken over by special interests through the medium of special pleaders? ... Are fortunes being made while these men get \$50 a month? Will they go home to a country destroyed by greed? ... This Army can defeat the enemy. There is no doubt about that. They know it and will accomplish it, but they do not want to go home to find a civil war in the making. The memory of the last depression is still fresh in their memories. ...

"What do the soldiers hear? - that Mr. Jones is calling Mr. Wallace names; that Mr. Jeffers is fighting against Mr. Ickes; czars of this and that are fighting for more power and more jurisdiction.

"Congress, in a kind of hysteria of immunity from public criticism, has removed even the machinery of relief which might take up the impact of a new depression; black markets are flourishing and the operators are not little crooks, but the best people. ...

"The papers are full of it, the letters from home are full of it—quarreling, anxiety, greed. And, being a soldier, he cannot complain. ... You cannot have that kind of thing in an army. He is not cynical, but he is worried. ... The Four Freedoms define what he wants but unless some machinery, some foundation, some clear method is shown, he is likely to believe only in ... the equal freedom of rich and poor to sleep under bridges."

That was in 1943. Wash. Rinse. Spin. Repeat.

—BM—



"We're making progress, Mr. Willoughby. ... We've reached your inner child."



"For openers, I don't like your necktie."

### Op-Ed: EPA cuts could affect priorities

President Donald Trump's proposal to cut the Environmental Protection Agency's budget by 31 percent would mean an easing up on the EPA's at times heavy-handed enforcement and push environmental groups to reset their priorities.

The spending cuts - which are light years from a forgone conclusion - would also put pressure on state government to decide what programs are important enough to fund from Montpelier.

"EPA cuts don't necessarily mean that Vermont is going to be without regulation," said Matthew Hardin, an attorney who handles Energy and Environment Legal Institute cases in Vermont. "The cuts mean to a certain degree the EPA will get out of the way and the state regulators can jump into that void and do whatever they want to do."

Hardin noted the EPA's "well-written history on being sort of overbearing" when it comes to working with state and local regulators.

"So I think this can definitely be a positive thing if you cut an enforce-

ment budget," he said. "It facilitates a shift toward collaborative enforcement that works with companies and works with state officials, as opposed to coming in with a hammer and saying 'you must do this!'"

Vermonters looking for answers might notice a difference, as well.

Hardin said that contacting local representatives regarding environmental efforts is always going to yield more interaction than trying to get in contact with EPA representatives in Washington.

"Money is finite"

Those on the receiving end of EPA grants take a different view, of course.

"People are going to be faced with slower response times, higher permit fees, and potentially less regulatory oversight for some programs that are pretty core to public health," said Julie Moore, secretary of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources.

Moore said she expects a 45 percent cut in state assistance grants to

enforce federal standards such as the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act. She said one of Vermont's biggest chunks of EPA money is a revolving fund that helps the Department of Environmental Conservation maintain municipal wastewater and drinking water facilities.

DEC's Supervisor of Water Infrastructure Finance Program, Terisa Thomas, said the program received more than \$6.5 million from the EPA in 2016 for managing wastewater and more than \$8.3 million for drinking water. She said for every \$5 from the EPA, the state matches \$1.

Moore contended that with or without spending cuts, many of the regulatory standards remain the same. "Because these programs have been delegated to the state, any concerned environmental group could turn around and sue the state for the failure to implement a program," Moore said.

While lawsuits from environmental groups are commonplace - often encouraged by the EPA - it's not necessarily the case that the exist-

ing regulatory regime will remain in place.

Along with the proposed budget cuts, the Trump administration has already begun rolling back federal regulations and will certainly continue that effort.

"There's discussion about changing the enforcement budget and the enforcement mechanisms," Hardin said, "so that there might be more collaborative mechanisms as opposed to draconian enforcement."

If the cuts lead to better priority-setting, everybody can win, according to Hardin.

"I think the problem is that money is finite and taxes cannot be increased forever," he said. "So we have to say not just what you want to do with money, but that it's better than any other use for which that money can be put. Not just other things the government can do, but better than what the private citizens can do with it."

Written by Michael Bielawski at Vermont Watchdog.

### Letter to the Editor

Letter to the Editor,

The board and staff of Health Care and Rehabilitation Services of Southeastern Vermont (HCRS) would like to express our thanks to town residents throughout Windsor and Windham counties who voted to support HCRS' town-funding requests at their recent Town Meetings.

This critically important town funding will help HCRS to achieve our mission: to provide creative, collaborative, and compassionate health care services that are responsive to the needs of the communities we serve. The broad spectrum of programs we offer help community members struggling with mental illness, substance abuse, and/or developmental disabilities to access the support they require - 365 days a year, 7 days a week, 24 hours each

day. The HCRS programs that your dollars continue to fund include: adult mental health and addiction services; developmental services; children, youth, and families services; the Kindle Farm Alternative School; emergency services; and residential services.

Our thanks go out to the following Vermont towns for voting in support of HCRS' programs and services: Andover, Athens, Barnard, Brattleboro, Chester, Dover, Dummerston, Grafton, Halifax, Hartford, Hartland, Jamaica, Landgrove, Londonderry, Ludlow, Marlboro, Newfane, Plymouth, Pomfret, Putney, Rockingham, Royalton, Sharon, Springfield, Stratton, Townshend, Wardsboro, Weathersfield, Westminster, Weston, West Windsor, Whitingham, Wilm-

ington, Windham, Windsor, and Woodstock.

With the help of these communities, HCRS will continue to make a substantial and positive impact on the quality of life that the residents

of Windsor and Windham Counties experience throughout the year.

Sincerely,  
George Karabakakis, Ph.D.  
Chief Executive Officer, HCRS

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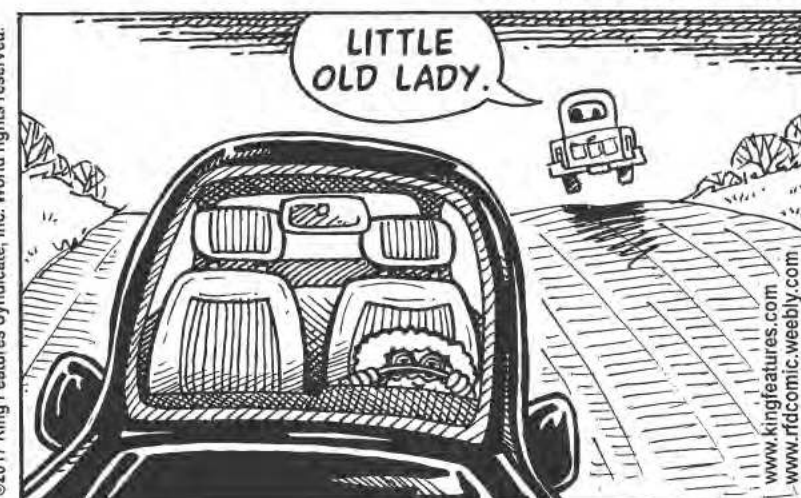
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### R.F.D.



by Mike Marland



# The Food and Farm Initiative awards over \$660,000

REGION - The Vermont Community Foundation has announced that its Food and Farm Initiative has made more than \$660,000 to 11 organizations working to connect more Vermonters with healthy, local food in the Initiative's final grant round. Half of the total granted out was made possible thanks to the partnership of donors and fundholders at the Foundation, including \$75,000 in support from the High Meadows Fund.

The Community Foundation launched the Initiative in 2012 to improve Vermont's ability to extend the benefits of local food to families of all incomes. Since then, the Foundation has granted out more than \$2.2 million to support organizations working on local food and anti-hunger work.

"We've been proud to support the hard work Food and Farm Initiative grantees over the past five years," says Jen Peterson, Vice President of Program and Grants at the Vermont Community Foundation. "The work they're doing is making a major difference in our communities. Since the beginning of the Initiative, we're seeing more Vermont farmers selling their products to local schools and other institutions, more children eating local foods at school, and more organizations coordinating their local food and anti-hunger work."

Peterson noted that though this cycle of grants marks the final round of competitive grant making for the Initiative, the work of the grantees will continue to grow in the years to

come, helping all Vermont families access healthy, local food.

**Some local Food and Farm Initiative grantees:**

- Food Connects in Brattleboro received \$37,800 to increase schools' purchasing and consumption of local food in Southern Vermont, increasing students' access to healthy school meals.

- Rutland Area Farm and Food Link received \$30,000 to increase students' access to healthy school meals in Rutland County.

- Vermont Housing and Conservation Board in Montpelier received \$45,060 to provide business-planning support to food nonprofits and to help affordable housing developers include gardens, CSA deliveries, and

nutrition programming on-site.

- Vital Communities in White River Jct. received \$29,970 to increase students' access to healthy school meals in Windsor County.

- Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund in Montpelier received \$99,382 to serve as the network coordinator for the Farm to Plate Network and to provide trainings for owners of independent

grocery stores to improve the way they source and display local food.

To learn more about the Food and Farm Initiative, visit [www.vermontcf.org/localfood](http://www.vermontcf.org/localfood).

## Obituaries

### Ignatius C. Matulonis, 1931-2017

LUDLOW, Vt. - Ignatius C. Matulonis, "Iggy," 86, died Tuesday morning, March 14, 2017, at Rutland Regional Medical Center. He was born March 9, 1931, in Cavendish, the son of George and Violet (Bresset) Matulonis. He attended Black River High School and served in the U.S. Navy and the Army National Guard from 1954 until 1991.

On July 11, 1959, Iggy married Anne C. Seward in Wallingford. He was employed at General Electric from 1956 until 1991. His first job was as a bench hand. Two years later he moved to the tool room, running a lathe. After a two-year stint there, he became a press set-up person. In 1965 he took a position in Rutland as a foreman in the small engine tollgate area. A year later he moved into engineering. Iggy had several different engineering assignments until his retirement from Rutland in April, 1991.

As a native of Ludlow, Iggy wanted to take an active part in the community. He was president of the Black River Valley Rod and Gun Club, a Ludlow Village trustee, a member

of the School Board and president of the Ludlow Snowmobile Club. He was a member of the Masons, the Shriners, the Elk Club, the Lions Club, the American Legion, the United Church of Ludlow, and the Black River Booster Club.

An active sportsman, he participated in both competitive basketball and softball, and was an avid Boston Celtics and Red Sox fan. He brought his love of sports back to Ludlow, helping to create the local Little League program for area children. He umpired games and assisted in fundraising to keep the program going. As his children grew Iggy coached the local Babe Ruth baseball team, the Black River Varsity Softball team, and also assisted locals by becoming an instructor for the Vermont Hunter Safety Course.

Iggy loved nature and was always out hunting, fishing, or snowmobiling. He also loved to pick (and give away) many quarts of blackberries, fiddleheads, and mushrooms.

After retiring, he and his wife Anne bought a second property in Bradenton, Florida, where they would spend some of their winters.

This also allowed them to play an active part in their grandchildren's lives, both in Vermont and Florida.

Survivors include his wife, Anne, of Ludlow; his two sons, Mark (and wife Donna) of Fleming Island, Florida, and Michael of Lakewood, Colorado; his daughter, Michele (and husband Kermit) Twombly of Ludlow; three siblings: Calla Susee of Bellows Falls, and Herman and Victor, both of Springfield; four grandchildren: Bryan, Renee, Brittany and Brandon; and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by three brothers: Joseph, Arthur and Mitchel.

On Saturday, May 20 at 1 p.m. the Masonic Service and the Funeral Service will take place at the United Church of Ludlow. The burial will follow at the Pleasant View Cemetery in Ludlow. There will be a reception following the burial at the United Church of Ludlow. In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made in Iggy's memory to the Alzheimer's Association, Vermont Chapter, Cornerstone Drive Suite 130, Williston, VT 05495.

Arrangements are in care of Adams Funeral Home, Ludlow.

### Darlene Sherer, 1946 - 2017

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. - Darlene Sherer, 71 passed away at her home on March 12, 2017. Darlene was born in Springfield, Vt. the daughter

of Vaino and Lois (Gibson) Manner.

Darlene had worked as an LNA at Springfield Health and Rehabilita-

tion Center.

Graveside Services will be held in the Hillcrest Cemetery, Proctorsville at a later date to be announced.

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# arts & entertainment

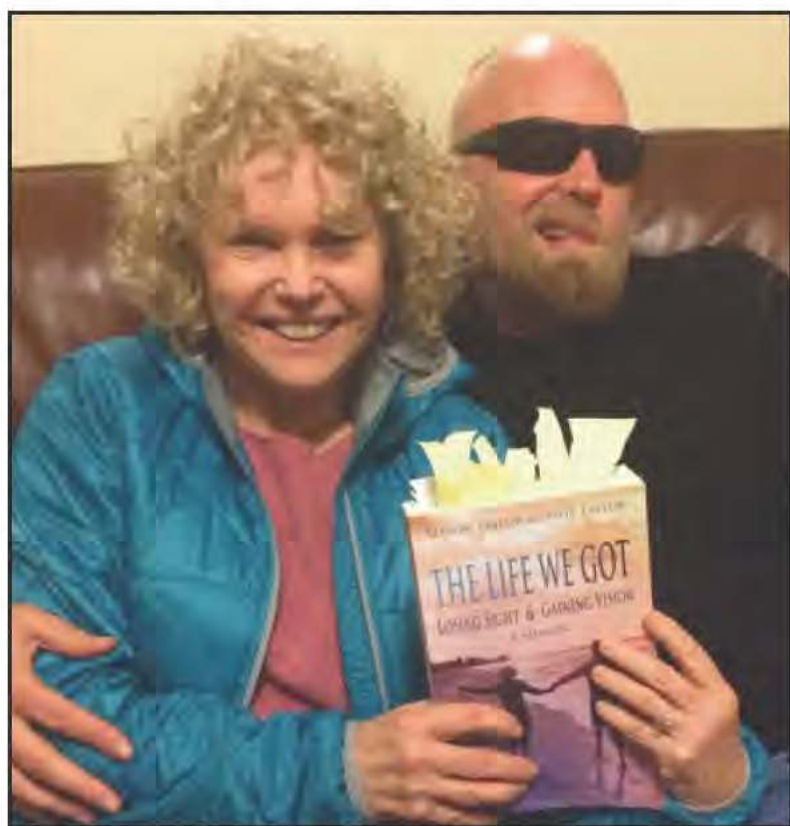
## Vermont authors Alison Taylor and Neil Taylor at Village Square Booksellers

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - Join Village Square Booksellers in Bellows Falls in welcoming Brattleboro authors Alison Taylor and Neil Taylor on Thursday, April 6 at 6:30 p.m. They will read from their memoir, *The Life We Got: Losing Sight and Gaining Vision*.

Neil Taylor was a young teacher and athlete when the discovery of a brain tumor catapulted him into a life of blindness. With his dreams shattered and the future uncertain he began, with unwavering support from his family, one step at a time, rebuilding a life worth living and worth celebrating.

A monumental step in his journey toward acceptance and wholeness was the writing of this memoir with his mother Alison. Told from both of their perspectives, their account is a road map of one family's journey in the face of trauma.

Neil Taylor is a massage therapist and owner of The Blind Masseur, in Brattleboro, Vermont. Alison Taylor is a former elementary school teacher and long-time yoga practitioner. Call 802-463-9404 with book and event reservations.



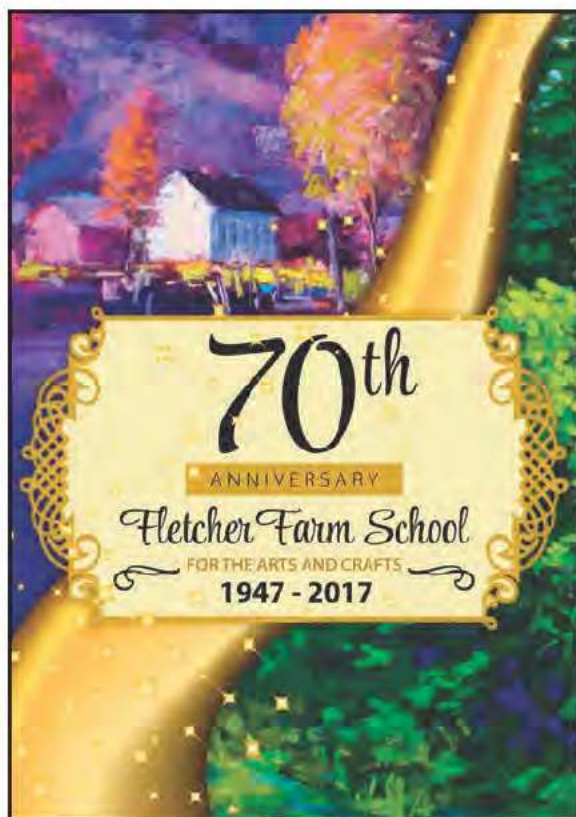
Alison and Neil Taylor will be at Village Square Booksellers with their book *The Life We Got*.

PHOTO PROVIDED

## Fletcher Farm School for the Arts & Crafts marks its 70th

LUDLOW, Vt. - Fletcher Farm School for the Arts & Crafts will be celebrating its 70th anniversary on July 1 during our annual craft festival. In addition to over 60 craft vendors, our celebration will feature live musicians throughout the day, and delicious food to tempt your appetite. We will be serving our famous strawberry shortcake, pizza, tacos in pocket, fresh lemonade, wine and beer, ice cream, and some surprising new choices.

Our celebration will feature a variety of live craft demonstrations by many of our instructors in our big barn, along with chainsaw carving demonstrations. Bring your pets and have a photo shoot with them. Children's activities will be quite a treat, with prizes for all. A silent auction will be open for your bids all day long, as well as numerous raffles for you take a chance. These activities will culminate with a live auction late in the day. Each vendor will be



Fletcher Allen School celebrates their 70th!

PHOTO PROVIDED

handing out a free giveaway at some time during the day, and you could

be the lucky one while shopping at their booth.

Admission is free, and the goal is a fun and exciting day for everyone.

In addition, the first annual Society of Vermont Artists and Craftsmen Robert Frost Award, honoring someone who has contributed to the arts in Vermont, will be presented during the celebration.

The Society of Vermont Artists and Craftsmen, Inc. owns and operates Fletcher Farm School for the Arts and Crafts, and leases the property from the Fletcher Farm Foundation.

Browse our new website, [www.fletcherfarm.org](http://www.fletcherfarm.org), to sign up for one of our spring classes now, and explore our summer classes running from June 24 through September 1. The Craft and Gift Shoppe, featuring the work of member artists, will be opening on June 24. You can also contact us at 802-228-8770 or [info@fletcherfarm.org](mailto:info@fletcherfarm.org).

## Transform your ideas about the library at National library week

CHESTER, Vt. - Celebrate National Library Week April 9-15. Whiting Library on Main Street in Chester joins libraries in schools, campuses and communities nationwide in celebrating the dynamic changes that are happening in today's libraries. April 9-15 is National Library Week, a time to highlight the changing role of libraries, librarians and library workers.

Libraries today are more about what they do as opposed to what they have. Libraries aren't only a place of quiet study, but also creative and engaging community centers. Your library offers access to a variety of print and digital resources, including books and magazines, DVDs and CDs, internet access and printers as well as ListenUp Vermont, Vermont On-line Library, Universal Class, Heritage Quest, Newsbank resources and others that can be accessed in person or online. There are art shows of local talent, and talented staff and volunteers eager to share what they know.

Libraries of all types are evolving to meet the needs of the communi-

ties they serve. At Whiting Library we are transforming - offering twice-weekly story-time for infants and toddlers and a chance for people of all ages may learn to craft, discuss books, see a film. There are even kits to take home to study minerals, bugs or shells, make candy or bake a cake. You can borrow a telescope or garden tools.

Libraries are many things to many people. They work with all ages and all people to discover and address



Celebrate National Library Week

STOCK PHOTO

the needs of their communities. Whether through offering classes or just a great place to meet, libraries and librarians listen to the community they serve, and they respond.

Whiting Library is celebrating National Library Week with "Blind Date with a Book." Check-out a book without knowing the title. Give it a try. It may be familiar or challenging, it may be comforting or unnerving. It may not be your "cup of tea," or it could be your new best friend.

First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country each April.

For more information, visit Whiting Library at 117 Main Street in Chester, call 802-875-2277 or see the library's web site at [whitinglibrary.org](http://whitinglibrary.org), and on Facebook. Libraries hours are Monday and Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Wednesday 10 a.m.-8 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

## "On the Waterfront" to screen April 8 in Ludlow

LUDLOW, Vt. - Continuing its series of classic movies from the 50s, FOLA (Friends of Ludlow Auditorium) will feature the 1954, black-and-white drama "On the Waterfront", on Saturday, April 8 at 7 p.m. in the Ludlow Town Hall Auditorium. Centered on corruption on the Hoboken, N. J., Mafia-controlled waterfront, the movie won many best acting and picture awards.

The film stars Marlon Brando, Karl Malden, Rod Steiger, Eva Marie Saint, and Lee J. Cobb. Directed by Elia Kazan, the film traces the story of an ex-boxer who is challenged to step up to the mobsters who control the longshoremen's union by appearing before a state commission as a witness after his lawyer brother and best friend are rubbed out. Prodding him to this calling are the local priest and the girl he loves - the sister of his murdered friend.

The movie is open to every-



Marlon Brando in "On the Waterfront."

PHOTO PROVIDED

one and is free; donations are appreciated. Popcorn is provided by Berkshire Bank and water by FOLA. Running time for the film is about 1 hour, 45 minutes.

For information call (802) 228-7239 or visit FOLA's web site at [www.fola.us](http://www.fola.us). The third selection in the Classics of the 50s series, "The Killing," will be on April 15.

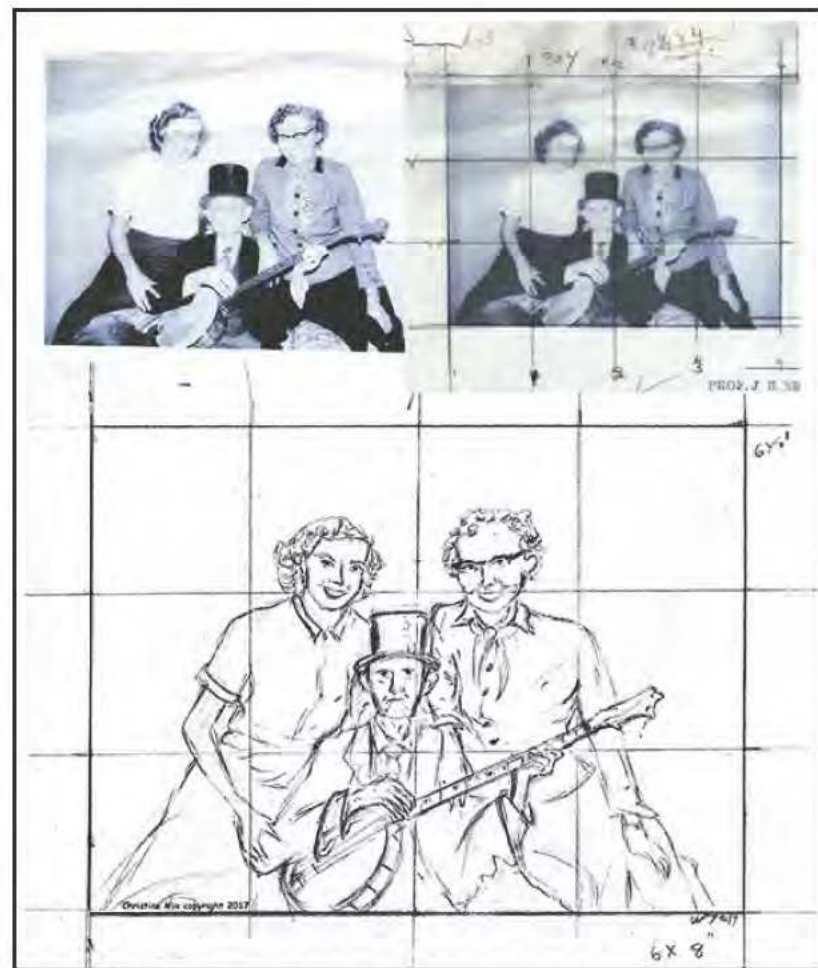
## Turning photos into drawings and watercolor paintings

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Turn your favorite photos into your own drawings and/or watercolor paintings using the Old Masters' grid method, with Christine Mix at Gallery at the VAULT on Saturday, April 15, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Bring a color or black and white copy of your favorite photo or artwork (no originals because we will be drawing on them) and learn how to reduce or enlarge the image onto watercolor paper or watercolor board using a simple scale ruler and pencil.

Once the image has been drawn and transferred, you'll be able to paint or color it as you like. All levels are welcome. Those who have been drawing for a while can learn something new, and newcomers, yes, you can draw using this method.

A materials list will be provided at registration. For more information please call or come into Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main St., Springfield. We are open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

Contact: 802-885-7111, [gallervault@vermontel.net](mailto:gallervault@vermontel.net), or visit our web page, [www.gallervault.org](http://www.gallervault.org).



Grid sample by Christine Mix.

PHOTO PROVIDED

## Create a book with Amber Paris

CHESTER, Vt. - Have you ever wondered how hard it would be to make your own book? Have you tried other simple binding methods and found yourself ready to step it up a level? Do you love learning new creative skills? Local artist and teacher Amber Paris invites you to learn how to make homemade books using the Western Codex binding method at

The Community Art Garden.

Have you ever wondered how hard it would be to make your own book? Have you tried other simple binding methods and found yourself ready to step it up a level? Do you love learning new creative skills? Local artist and teacher Amber Paris invites you to learn how to make homemade books using the Western Codex binding method at

"I've been making books since I took a class in art school," Amber says. "One hour into this bookmaking class, and I was hooked! Handmade books can solve practical needs like wanting a custom journal or sketchbook or scrapbook but they also open up an amazing world of creative possibility - maybe you'll create an artist book with custom content as well!"

"I always enjoy teaching this class at The Community Art Garden - the books students complete are stunning and the pride is palpable in a job well done! Small class sizes mean plenty of one on one instruction. I also hand-pick high quality materials, including papers for book covering that you will drool over."

Learn this handy, fun and fulfilling new skill Sunday, April 23, 12-3 p.m. at The Community Art Garden, 295 Main St. in Chester. Ages 8 through adult. The fee includes materials.

Registration can be done online at [www.community-artgarden.com](http://www.community-artgarden.com) or you may contact Emily Burkland at [theartgardenvt@gmail.com](mailto:theartgardenvt@gmail.com) or 802-289-3071 for more information.

Want to see Amber's work? Visit her website, [www.amberparis.net](http://www.amberparis.net).



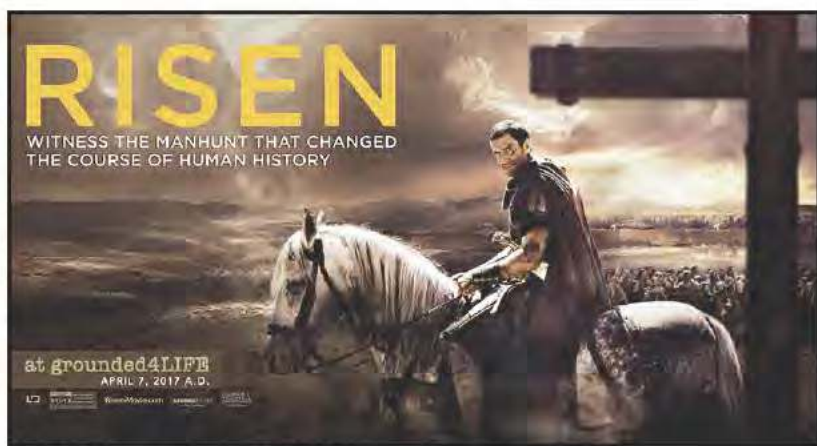
Amber Paris leads a book making workshop.

PHOTO PROVIDED

# arts & entertainment

## Free movie: Risen at Grounded4Life on April 7—

CHESTER, Vt. — Watch Risen at Grounded4Life, starring Joseph Fiennes (Shakespeare in Love, Enemy at the Gates), Tom Felton (Harry Potter, Rise of the Planet of the Apes), Peter Firth (The Hunt for Red October; Pearl Harbor, “MI-5”), and Cliff Curtis (Live Free or Die Hard, “Fear the Walking Dead”). Directed by Kevin Reynolds (director of Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves, producer of Hatfields & McCoy’s). Risen takes place in 33 A.D. Clavius, a hardened centurion (Fiennes) and his aide Lucius (Felton) are ordered by Pontius



Watch “Risen” at Grounded4Life.

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Pilate (Firth) to investigate the unsettling rumors of an executed man (Curtis) having risen from the dead. Working against time to quell growing unrest, Clavius wrestles with a growing mystery that shakes everything he ever thought about himself or the Roman world he called home.

The film is Rated PG-13 for biblical violence including some disturbing images. Running time: 1 hr 48 min.

Movie, refreshments, and beverages are all free! Movie showing will be held at Grounded4Life, a coffeehouse and small theater located in the lower level of the Chester Baptist Church (across from “the green” at 162 Main St, Chester, Vt.) on Friday, April 7, 2017. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with food, coffee, and conversation. The movie begins at 7:00.

Check out the Grounded4Life Facebook page and share us with your friends. You can also contact us through the grounded4lifevt.org website if you have other questions.

**Holy Week and Easter at Immanuel Church**

**Maudy Thursday Service**  
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**Good Friday, Stations of the Cross**  
April 14 at 6 pm

**Easter Vigil**  
April 15 at 6 pm

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## OLLI presents “Foodscaping: Planting an Edible Landscape” with Charlie Nardozzi

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Charlie Nardozzi, garden consultant, will present the OLLI-Osher Lifelong Learning Institute program on Tuesday, April 11, titled “Foodscaping: Planting an Edible Landscape,” at 2:00 pm at the Nolin Murray Center next to St. Mary’s Catholic Church, 10 Pleasant St., Springfield. This program is co-sponsored by the Springfield Garden Club.

“Foodscaping” is the title of Charlie’s latest book. Everyone wants to grow some vegetables, fruits and herbs in their yard, but we often don’t want to sacrifice our landscape’s beauty doing it. Foodscaping, or edible landscaping, provides a way to have both. Explore the many ways and places you can integrate edibles into your yard and learn about the beauty of edibles. Hear about some of the speaker’s favorite edi-

bles and how to grow them successfully in your yard. He will also cover basics of gardening such as soil and planting needs. There will be ample time for questions. Come and prepare for Spring!

Charlie Nardozzi is a nationally recognized garden writer, speaker, and radio and television personality. He has worked for more than 25 years bringing expert gardening information to home gardeners through radio, television, talks, tours, on-line, and the printed page. Charlie delights in making gardening information simple, easy, fun and accessible to everyone.

OLLI-Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, affiliated with the University of Vermont, is to engage in meaningful learning, “just for the fun of it!” The OLLI series programs are selected with input from the local members and carry varied themes from semester to semester including

history, art, music, literature, health, nature, science and current events.

All ages are welcome to attend. The programs are open to the public. Non-members are encouraged and welcome to attend individual lectures for a single program fee. Memberships as well as single program fees may be paid at the program.

The next OLLI program on April 25 will be Judy Dow speaking about Vermont’s Native people, the Abenaki. She’ll discuss their culture and her experiences growing up in this heritage.

For more information, contact Marita Johnson, facilitator, at 802-885-3094 or [mjohnson@vermontel.net](mailto:mjohnson@vermontel.net). The complete Springfield and statewide program list is available on the internet at [www.learn.uvm.edu/olli](http://www.learn.uvm.edu/olli). Weather related changes can also be found on the OLLI website.

## Celtic music and tales

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The Springfield Town Library is pleased to present Celtic Music and Tales on Wednesday, April 12 at 6:30 p.m. Claudine Langille, longtime singer and instrumentalist with Gypsy Reel, will share some jigs and reels and stories from the Emerald Isle and beyond.

Claudine plays and teaches tenor banjo, mandolin and guitar, and has a collection of songs and true tales from her travels with Gypsy Reel and with Touchstone, her award-winning band in the 1980s. She has been featured on the internationally broadcast Thistle and Shamrock radio show, and is listed in Wikipedia as a “Noteworthy Irish mandolinist.”

Come celebrate the rich, sparkling music and culture of Ireland with us! This event is free, acces-

sible to people with disabilities, and open to the public. Sponsored by the Friends of the Springfield Town

Library. Please call the Springfield Town Library at 885-3108 for more information.



Claudine Langille.

PHOTO PROVIDED

## Charlie Chaplin’s “The Kid” to screen

LUDLOW, Vt. - Silent film with live music returns to Ludlow Auditorium with a screening of Charlie Chaplin’s classic comedy/drama “The Kid”

(1921) on Saturday, April 22 at 7 p.m. The special program will be presented with live music by silent film accompanist Jeff Rapsis. The screening

is free and open to the public.

Sponsored by FOLA (Friends of the Ludlow Auditorium), the program enables audiences to experience silent film in the way its makers originally intended: on the big screen, in restored prints, with live music, and with an audience.

Chaplin was already the world’s most popular comedian and filmmaker when he produced “The Kid,” his first feature-length project. The movie, with its daring mix of intense drama and slapstick comedy, proved an instant sensation and marked one of the high points of Chaplin’s long career.

“The Kid” follows the story of a tramp (Chaplin), who attempts to raise an orphaned boy on his own. It includes several classic scenes, and is highlighted by a sequence in which Chaplin battles authorities attempting to return the child to an orphanage.

Co-starring with Chaplin in “The Kid” is five-year-old Jackie Coogan, who turned in what many critics rank as the best child performance of the entire silent film era. Chaplin himself worked closely with the young Coogan for more than a year to develop the youngster’s acting abilities. Coogan then went on to a long career that much later included the role of “Uncle Fester” in the popular 1960s Addams Family television show.

“If you can put pieces of the experience back together again, it’s surprising how these films snap back to life,” said Rapsis, a New Hampshire-based silent film accompanist who creates music for silent film screenings at venues around the country. “By showing the films under the right conditions, you can really get a sense of why people first fell in love with the movies.” In creating music for silent films, Rapsis performs on a digital synthesizer that reproduces the texture of the full orchestra and creates a traditional “movie score” sound.

“The Kid” will be preceded by “A Dog’s Life” (1918), one of Chaplin’s

See **THE KID** on Page 3B

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(wool FM building)

# arts & entertainment

## “Spring into the Garden with Charlie Nardozzi”

WALPOLE, N.H. - You know what they say, “April showers bring May flowers.” Are you ready for your May flowers? Learn about all the tasks that are necessary to maintain your beautiful garden.

Professional gardener Charlie Nardozzi will be the speaker at Parks Place 7th annual garden event on Sunday, April 9 at Alyson's Orchard in Walpole, N.H. This year's theme is “Spring into the garden: what to do now with your flowers and landscape plants.”

The event starts with a light lunch at noon and an opportunity to talk with Charlie, and preview and bid on silent

auction items. Charlie Nardozzi's formal presentation is from 1:15-3 p.m.

As a special feature this year, you can purchase a seat at Charlie's table, ensuring you have the chance to ask all of your burning gardening questions! Call Parks Place to reserve your seat at Charlie's Table. Seating is limited; admission is by donation.

Charlie has recently released his new book, “New England Month by Month Gardening.” Be sure to stick around after the event to get your signed copy.

Major sponsors of this year's event include Burtco Inc., Durand Toyota Ford, MJS Landscape, Savings Bank of

Walpole, Saxtons River Inn, Richards Group, Silver Forest, Vermed Inc. and Whitney Blake Company.

Parks Place provides access to a variety of health and human service programs for the Greater Falls Community, programming that provide individuals and families the opportunity to make lasting, positive change in their lives. Thank you for support of this event.

For Garden Event updates check us out at [www.parksplacevt.org](http://www.parksplacevt.org) or Facebook.com/ParksPlaceVT/ or call Parks Place Community Resource Center at 802-463-9927.

## Kundalini yoga at Neighborhood Connections

LONDONDERRY, Vt. - An introduction to kundalini yoga as taught by the kundalini yoga master Yogi Bhajan is offered by certified kundalini yoga teacher and owner of Chester's Buddhaful Yoga Liza Eaton on Thursdays, April 13 and 20, 2-3:30pm at The Meeting Place at Neighborhood Connections. Come learn the basics of this wonderfully healing and illuminating yoga that has the ability to bring the body,

mind and spirit into balance quickly and effectively. This is a gentle introduction class for all ages and abilities. Participants may even sit in a chair. Bring a mat or blanket and wear comfortable clothes.

Liza Eaton, also known as Satya Prakash is now working on her Level 2 Certification in kundalini yoga. She is a colorful and joyful teacher who encourages her students to get out of their heads and go into their hearts.

She offers regular classes, workshops and retreats in Chester and Proctorsville. Check out her website at [www.buddhafulyoga.com](http://www.buddhafulyoga.com).

There is no charge to attend these sessions and you can attend one or both. Space is limited, so call 802-824-4343 to register. The Meeting Place at Neighborhood Connections is located in Londonderry's Mountain Marketplace, next to the post office.

## Musicians test-drive donated Steinway grand piano

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. - What do you do when someone gives you a Steinway grand piano? You enlist some of the area's finest musicians to play it.

And that is just what Main Street Arts will do in its three-part Hands On: Celebrating Our Piano series of concerts beginning Sunday, April 9 at 3 p.m., when Hugh Keelan and Ken Olsson will share the piano bench in four-hand harmony.

The April 9 concert will feature polonaises by Schumann, pieces by Fauré, Rachmaninoff and Beethoven, a barcarolle by Hollo-way and the “Cuban Overture” of George Gershwin.

They will be followed Sunday, Apr. 23, when Keelan will be joined by Gudrun Weeks on violin; Peggy

Spencer, viola; Pedro Pereira, cello; and Doug Cox, bass, for a performance of Schubert's “Trout” Quintet.

Last in the series is Sunday, May 21, when Keelan and four-time Grammy winner Eugene Friesen will perform piano and cello magic.

The series grew out of Jamie Eckley's donation of the piano to MSA. The instrument had previously been owned by the Chicago Lyric Opera Company and reportedly used by Lola Fletcher, the cousin and teacher of Lily Pons, the French-American operatic soprano and actress, as her lesson instrument. Fletcher was the grandmother of Eckley's late wife Pam.

The piano is a brown mahogany Model M grand and has been tuned and restored to its former glory by William Ballard.

Keelan, music director and conductor of the Windham Orchestra, is a pianist and violinist who served as conductor of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic for fifteen years, music director of the Erie Philharmonic from 2000 to 2006, and guest conductor of orchestras around the world.

Olsson was most recently music director of the MSA production of “Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street” and has directed musical productions at Main Street Arts and throughout the local area, including Opera Theatre of Weston. He is co-founder of Southern Vermont Lyric Theatre.

Tickets can be purchased by contacting MSA at 802-869-2960 or [info@mainstreetarts.org](mailto:info@mainstreetarts.org).

## Come sing at Singing River Farm

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. - Join Laurel Green and Steve Crofter and friends in a communal Potluck and Sing Saturday, April 8 at 5:30 p.m. The theme this month is Cowboy and Cowgirl Songs.

If you are new to our Potluck and Sing invitation, here's the big idea. We sing for the fun of it. We like the evenings to be family friendly with young ones included in the song circle. During the singing part of

the evening, a song along our theme or any song you want to sing will do just fine. We start with the youngest folks choosing a song for us to sing together, then go around the circle as each person gets to pick a song, teach a song, perform a song or pass the turn on to the next person.

In the past we've enjoyed folks songs, rounds, camp songs, show tunes, newly written songs, party singing games, hand clap games, even a rap song. In-

struments are welcome, but are not the focus as we just like to sing!

Come and go as you please. It does help us if you let us know you are going to join us so we can set out chairs enough for all. Our number is 802-275-4646.

Join us for an evening of homemade fun at Singing River Farm, 2128 Brockways Mills Rd., Rockingham.

The next Potluck and Sing will be on Saturday, May 13. Mark your calendar!

## THE KID

From Page 2B



Charlie Chaplin and child actor Jackie Coogan star in 'The Kid' (1921), to be screened with live music on Saturday, April 22 at 7 p.m. at Ludlow Town Hall Auditorium, 137 Depot St. in Ludlow, Vt. The screening is sponsored by the Friends of Ludlow Auditorium. Donations are encouraged.



Silent film accompanist Jeff Rapsis will improvise a live musical score for a screening of 'The Kid.'

PHOTO PROVIDED

earlier short comedies that helped establish his worldwide popularity.

“The Kid” (1921) starring Charlie Chaplin and Jackie Coogan, will be screened with live music on Saturday, April 22 at 7 p.m. at Ludlow Town Hall Auditorium, 137 Depot St. in Ludlow, Vt. The screening is sponsored by the Friends of Ludlow Auditorium. Admission is free; donations are encouraged. For more information about the FOLA and its events, visit [www.fola.us](http://www.fola.us) or call (802) 228-7239.

### CRITIC QUOTE

“Chaplin's first real feature mixes slapstick and sentiment in a winning combination, as the Tramp raises a streetwise orphan. Wonderful film launched Coogan as a major child star, and it's easy to see why.”  
—Leonard Maltin's Movie Guide

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# sports/outdoor news

## Okemo skiers & riders bring home NASTAR medals

LUDLOW, Vt. - Okemo Mountain Resort sent a record 27 racers to this year's Liberty Mutual Insurance NASTAR National Championships in Steamboat Springs, Colo. Of the 76 participating resorts, Okemo finished in fifth place at the conclusion of the indi-

vidual events.

Three brothers, Ryan, Archie and Lauchie Cameron, made the podium in their respective races. Five-year-old Lauchie became the fourth racer in NASTAR history to win his age group in both skiing and snowboarding. Their grandfather, Okemo NASTAR Coordinator Pat Moore, picked up his 11th National Championship in snowboard racing.

Chloe Blount took third in Girls' 6-7 Platinum Division. Jen Blount won Women's 40-44 Platinum. Marti Brueckner took second in Women's 50-54 Platinum. Okemo

Instructor Florin Castor won his division. Isiah Delage took third in his division. Rob Dexter took second in the 65-69 Platinum Division. Gerard Heckler won the 75-79 Silver Division. Mary Lou Morell took second in the 65-69 Silver Division. Bob Morell took second in the 70-74 Gold Division. Dan Shpak won the 40-44 Bronze Division. Olivia Shpak won the 14-15 Bronze Division. Peter Wepplo took second in the 70-74 Platinum Division.

NASTAR stands for National Standard Race and is the largest public grassroots ski racing program in the world. Founded in 1968, NASTAR gives recreational racers an opportunity to compete and compare their scores to friends and family regardless of when and where they race, using the NASTAR handicap system. NASTAR was developed by SKI Magazine in



Chloe Blount. PHOTO PROVIDED BY PAT MOORE

1968 and now boasts more than 100,000 races at more than 100 resorts around the country. Racers are scored with a handicap system that provides participants with a tangible number, or handicap, that represents their ability against U.S. Ski Team athletes and pacesetters. Today, NASTAR is operated by the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association.



Marco, Pat and the boys. PHOTO PROVIDED BY PAT MOORE

## Registration now open for PGA Junior League Golf

CHESTER, Vt. - PGA professionals in the Chester area are offering PGA Junior League Golf, a fun and social opportunity that gives boys and girls ages 13 and under of all abilities the opportunity to learn, play and enjoy the game of golf. Parents can visit PGAJLG.com/TeamGolf to learn more, find a team and register for the 2017 season.

PGA Junior League Golf takes a team approach. Kids wear numbered jerseys and play on teams with friends, in a popular scramble format for

competition. In 2016, a record-setting 36,000 kids participated in the program nationwide.

Facilities hosting PGA Junior League Golf in the Chester area are: Tater Hill Golf Club (Chester), Manchester Country Club (Manchester Center), and Okemo Valley Golf Club (Ludlow).

"PGA Junior League Golf presents a welcoming and engaging way for kids to play and learn golf in a fun, engaging and encouraging team environment," said Mike Higgins, executive director of the New England PGA Section. "Kids

are learning more than just a game they can enjoy for a lifetime. And PGA Junior League Golf is an excellent option for parents looking for a sport that

develops character skills and life lessons for their children."

PGA and LPGA professionals serve exclusively as captains for PGA Junior League Golf teams, ensuring kids are given the opportunity to learn from the experts in the game. With parents and family members encouraged to serve as coaches, volunteers and spectators, PGA Junior League Golf involves the entire family.



Proud players pose with PGA banner. PHOTO PROVIDED

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Single Adult Member (over 24) - \$550 plus tax  
Young Adult Member (19 - 23) - \$195 plus tax  
Junior (Younger than 18 at sign up) - \$50 plus tax

NEW RESTAURANT!

The 9 and Dine Restaurant, owned and operated by local businessman Richard Demuzio, will be offering lunch & dinner Tues. - Sun. with a broad selection of sandwiches, burgers, lobster rolls, baskets (scallops, shrimp, clams, etc.) Fresh Atlantic Haddock on Fri. Sat. & Sun.

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## One week remaining to pick for 2017 Dari Joy Baseball Contest

BY BILL MURPHY  
The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - There is only one week remaining for readers to become part of the 2017 Dari Joy Baseball Contest. Here is your chance to try your luck at picking the 2017 baseball pennant races.

When all the dust settles a little after Halloween, you might be one of the six winners, who will collect one of three Dari Joy baseball certificates (\$50, \$25 and \$15) or one of the three Red Sox autographed baseballs in the contest.

This is the seventh straight year the Dari Joy and The Shopper/Vermont Journal have invited you to join the competition and put your prediction expertise to the test. Each year entrants have the opportunity to pick each division in baseball, from top to bottom and compete with other participants throughout the valley and beyond to compare their prediction skills.

The Dari Joy in Bellows Falls is already open daily for the 2017 season, so feel free to stop in and talk baseball with Dari Joy owner Rich Demuzio. Rich and The Shopper/Vermont Journal sports editor Bill Murphy have already made their predictions publicly in last week's paper and if anyone who enters the contest can make selections which accumulate more points than both of them, the monetary prizes in the contest double to \$100, \$50 and \$30.

One can enter the contest by either emailing their picks to bmurphy@vermontjournal.com or mailing them to The Shopper, P.O. Box 308, Bellows Falls, VT 05101, noting below the address: Attention Baseball Contest. All correspondence must be sent or postmarked by April 12th.

In making your selections you should: 1) List the order of finish (top to bottom) in each of baseball's six divisions; 2) Note two wild card teams in each league; 3) Pick the American and National

League champion; 4) Pick the World Series champion.

**How points are awarded:**

1) Seven points for choosing the World Series champion (you will be given two points if your champion selection is in the World Series and loses)

2) Four points for choosing the World Series loser (you will get two points if your selection is in the World Series and wins)

3) Three points are awarded for each division champion selected (you will get one point if a division champion choice makes the post season as a wild card)

4) One point for wild card choices who are in the play-offs either as a wild card or as a division winner.

**Tiebreakers:** Ties will be broken from last place up, thus every one of your choices is important. If you tie for one of the winner's spots, the tie will be broken by how many last place teams each participant chooses correctly. If a tie still exists following last place consideration, the tiebreaker moves up to next to last place picks and continue up the standings ladder as many spots needed until the tie is broken. Most years one tie or more is broken by the tiebreaker system.

**Note:** only one entry is allowed per person. Please include contact information with your selection. A mailing address or an email address, plus a phone number would be helpful.

**Seventh annual Dari Joy baseball contest**

**Six winners**

Win a \$50, \$25 or \$15 Dari Joy gift certificate or a Red Sox autographed baseball.

Pick all of baseball's six divisions and the 2017 World Series champion.



Dari Joy in Bellows Falls. PHOTO PROVIDED

## Springfield youth wrestlers

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - An incredible season for the Springfield Youth Wrestlers continues to roll on! While Mother Nature played a foul weather trick on April Fools Day, a crew of dedicated grapplers forged ahead to hit the mats in Fair Haven VT for some serious action. Competition was even fiercer than

the weather, yet our boys in green rose to the challenge!

Showing improved skill and strength this season, 6th grader Kyle Bauer worked hard on a respectable bronze medal. Coming in second place in their weight brackets were Garrett Brickey, Jace Beamon, and Hunter Ferland, who duked it

out in a six-man bracket. Walking home with a first-place title were Tristan Perry, Dillan Lacasse, and Dmitri Jasinski.

The 3rd - 6th graders will head to Vergennes this weekend for State Championships, and the K-2 wrestlers get their shot at a state title on April 15 in St Johnsbury. Go, green!

## pets of the week



Hi, everybody! My name's Bruin, and I'm a 4-year-old neutered male Mixed Breed dog that may look familiar to you. I was adopted, and returned. But let me tell you - I had a BLAST while I was gone! Having been a stray, I really wasn't sure what to expect when I moved in to an actual home, but it was great. Really great! I loved going for car rides and absolutely loved playing with all my toys. And, I loved all the treats, too. I really loved to go

exploring, especially on my own, which was a problem. What can I say? I'm an adventurer at heart. Well, rumor has it around here that my next home must have a fenced in yard to make things much safer for me. And, I have to be the only animal in the house (no other dogs or cats). I'm a fun-loving, active dog that is sure to put a smile on your face. If you're a lover of car rides and adventure, stop in and meet me today. We might be a perfect match!



Hi! My name's Thor and I'm a 6-year-old neutered male. I was brought to Lucy Mackenzie when my owner could no longer care for me. I didn't feel great when I arrived - my ears really itched and I had a belly-ache all the time. After seeing the vet, I was switched to a special hypoallergenic diet, which has made a huge difference! I really do feel much so much better, and just want to play, play, play all the time! Well, I want to play when I'm not cuddling, that is. I have a voracious appetite for food and life,

equally. If you've been looking for a feline companion and would love to give a deserving fella a break, stop in and meet me today!

Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society is located at 4832 Route 44, West Windsor, Vt. We're open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, 12 - 4 p.m. Reach us daily at 802-484-LUCY. Visit us at www.lucymac.org, like us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter. We hope to see you soon!

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# AUTOMOTIVE

# calendar

## EVENTS CONT.

**SAT., APRIL 8 CONT.** - painting, a jellybean jar guess and pluck a duck games. There will also be an Easter bonnet contest, where children create the most interesting bonnet or hat, and prizes will be awarded in two age groups, 0-4 and 5-8. Special thanks to the Farrar Park Association, Jelly's Mobil, Mike & Tammy's Main St. Market, Weston Marketplace and our wonderful volunteers who make this annual event possible.

**CHESTER, Vt.** - Easter egg hunt at the Chester-Andover Elementary School, 9 a.m. sharp. Bring your children at 8:45 a.m. so they won't miss the opportunity to participate. This event is open to all Chester and Andover children from preschool to sixth grade. Sponsored by Rotary Club of Chester. For more information, contact Bill Dakin, 802-875-3456.

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** - The Bellows Falls Community Bike Project will hold its 2nd annual silent auction Saturday, April 8, 6-10 p.m. (bidding ends at 9 p.m.), at the WOOL-FM building, 33 Bridge St. Buy a chance to win a nearly new Huffy Cranbrook Beach Cruiser single-speed bike. There will be live music by local musicians Jesse Peters, The Milkhouse Heaters and Josh Maiocco & Ben Carr, food, a cash bar by Donovan's, 50/50 raffle, a drawing for the bike raffle and lots of unique auction items - gift baskets, local artisan wares, gift certificates. Purchase tickets at the bike shop at 30 Henry St. More information is at [info@bfbike.org](mailto:info@bfbike.org).

**SUNDAY, APRIL 9 - SAXTONS RIVER, Vt.** - Main Street Arts will host a series of three concerts beginning Sunday, Apr. 9 at 3 p.m., when Hugh Keelan and Ken Olsson will share the piano bench in four-hand harmony. The concert will feature polonaises by Schumann, pieces by Fauré, Rachmaninoff and Beethoven, a barcarolle by Holloway and the "Cuban Overture" of George Gershwin. They will

be followed Sunday, Apr. 23 when Keelan will be joined by Gudrun Weeks on violin; Peggy Spencer, viola; Pedro Pereira, cello; and Doug Cox, bass, for a performance of Schubert's "Trout Quintet." Last in the series is Sunday, May 21, when Keelan and four-time Grammy winner Eugene Friesen will perform piano and cello magic. Stay tuned.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 11 - SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** - Charlie Nardozzi, garden consultant, will present the OLLI-Osher Lifelong Learning Institute program on Tuesday, April 11, 2 p.m. at the Nolin Murray Center next to St. Mary's Catholic Church on Pleasant St. in Springfield. The subject is "Foodscaping: Planting an Edible Landscape." This program is cosponsored by the Springfield Garden Club. Coming up April 25, Judy Dow will speak about Vermont's Native people, the Abenaki. She'll discuss their culture and her experiences growing up in this heritage.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12 - CHESTER, Vt.** - The Nature Museum presents atmospheric scientist Dr. Alan Betts in a lecture, "The Climate Challenge Deepens," 7-9 p.m. at the Newsbank Conference Center, 352 Main St. Super storms? Seasonal shifts? Understanding our changing weather is a real challenge. Join us for the evening program presented by atmospheric scientist Dr. Alan K. Betts; he will explain how global climate change is bringing more extreme weather to New England, and raising greater challenges for society, despite the 2015 Paris agreement. Are we on track towards an energy efficient,

resilient future? This program is geared for adults and children over 10, and is designed to be an educational talk with Q&A for environmentalists and conservationists. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact [carrie@naturemuseum.org](mailto:carrie@naturemuseum.org).

**THURSDAY, APRIL 13 - SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** - "Weatherize Upper Valley" will have contractors on hand to answer questions about home

weatherization, Thursday, April 13, 6-7 p.m. at the Springfield Food Coop, 335 River St., Springfield. Free and open to the public. For more information, contact Julie Lloyd Wright, energy coordinator for the Town of Weathersfield, at 802-674-5280 or by email, [darthol@sover.net](mailto:darthol@sover.net).

**SATURDAY, APRIL 15 - GRAFTON, Vt.** - The Nature Museum presents "Vermont Wildlife: the Working

Landscape Edition," a Kindred Spirits program with live animals, 10 a.m. at the Phelps Barn at the Grafton Inn, 92 Main St. This program focuses on Vermont wildlife with an historic twist! To introduce the program, musician and singer Will Danforth will regale the audience with nature songs. Wildlife expert Mike Clough of The Southern Vermont Natural History Museum will bring live birds and animals, touchable

artifacts, and interactive demonstrations to make this an unforgettable experience. Stick around to enjoy a piece of Earth Day cake and meet Mike Clough, who will stay to answer questions. All are invited to then take a short walk to explore and enjoy The Nature Museum's exhibits and interactive spaces. Recommended for ages 5 and up. For more info, contact [carrie@naturemuseum.org](mailto:carrie@naturemuseum.org).

**ALSTEAD, N.H.** - Easter egg hunt on the Millot Green, 10 a.m. Fun for all, a visit from the Easter Bunny, coloring contest, games, door prizes and snacks. Free and open to the public. For more information, contact Kitty Kniec, 603-835-2145.



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<p><b>2017 VOLVO S-60 SEDAN</b> AWD, Fully Loaded, Only 6,000 Miles, Stock #1702 <b>SALE PRICE \$28,995</b></p>	<p><b>2015 GMC CANYON CREW CAB</b> All Terrain, Navigation, Fully Loaded, Only 26,000 Miles, One Owner <b>SALE PRICE \$31,995</b></p>	<p><b>2014 CHEVY 1500 CREW CAB</b> LT Package, Z71 Off Road, Heated Seats, Like New <b>SALE PRICE \$30,995</b></p>	<p><b>2009 TOYOTA TACOMA EXTENDED CAB</b> 4x4, 4 Cylinder, 5-Speed, Fully Loaded <b>SALE PRICE \$10,995</b></p>
<p><b>2017 VOLVO XC-60</b> AWD, Fully Loaded, Sun Roof, Leather, Only 7,000 Miles <b>SALE PRICE \$39,995</b></p>	<p><b>2015 FORD MUSTANG</b> 2 Door Coupe, Leather, Navigation, One Owner, Only 8,000 Miles <b>SALE PRICE \$23,495</b></p>	<p><b>2014 CHEVY CRUZE</b> LT Package, Auto, Fully Loaded, Only 31,000 Miles <b>SALE PRICE \$10,995</b></p>	<p><b>2009 SUBARU FORESTER</b> Auto, Sun Roof, Leather <b>SALE PRICE \$7,995</b></p>
<p><b>2016 FORD T-250 CARGO VAN</b> PW, PDL, Tilt Wheel, Only 13,000 Miles <b>SALE PRICE \$23,995</b></p>	<p><b>2015 CHEVY CRUZE</b> LT Package, One Owner, Only 16,000 Miles <b>SALE PRICE \$13,995</b></p>	<p><b>2014 CHEVY SPARK</b> LS Package, Auto, One Owner, Only 19,000 Miles <b>SALE PRICE \$8,995</b></p>	<p><b>2009 SUBARU FORESTER</b> AWD, Fully Loaded, Automatic <b>SALE PRICE \$6,995</b></p>
<p><b>2016 CHEVY IMPALA</b> LT Package, Fully Loaded, Only 10,000 Miles, Stock #1617 <b>SALE PRICE \$17,995</b></p>	<p><b>2015 CHEVY MALIBU</b> LT Package, Sun Roof <b>SALE PRICE \$15,995</b></p>	<p><b>2013 VOLVO XC-60 T6</b> Leather, Sun Roof <b>SALE PRICE \$25,995</b></p>	<p><b>2009 CHEVY 1500 EXT CAB</b> 4x4, Z71 Off Road Package, One Owner, Extra Clean <b>SALE PRICE \$14,995</b></p>
<p><b>2016 GMC SIERRA DBL CAB</b> SLE Package, One Owner, Only 4,000 Miles <b>SALE PRICE \$31,995</b></p>	<p><b>2014 CHEVY TRAVERSE</b> AWD, Fully Loaded, Only 29,000 Miles <b>SALE PRICE \$21,995</b></p>	<p><b>2013 CHEVY MALIBU</b> LS Package, Only 36,000 Miles <b>SALE PRICE \$11,295</b></p>	<p><b>2008 FORD FUSION</b> SEL Package, Auto, Power Seats <b>SALE PRICE \$4,995</b></p>
<p><b>2016 CHEVY CRUZE LT</b> RS Package, Sun Roof, Auto, One Owner <b>SALE PRICE \$14,995</b></p>	<p><b>2014 NISSAN ROGUE</b> AWD, Fully Loaded, One Owner, Only 23,000 Miles <b>SALE PRICE \$16,995</b></p>	<p><b>2012 CHEVY 2500 HD EXTENDED CAB</b> Auto, PW, PDL, Tilt Wheel, 4x4, Only 43,000 Miles, One Owner <b>SALE PRICE \$21,995</b></p>	<p><b>2007 CHEVY COLORADO EXTENDED CAB</b> Z71 Off Road Package, Only 41,000 Miles <b>SALE PRICE \$12,995</b></p>
<p><b>2016 CHEVY EQUINOX</b> LTZ Package, Heated Leather Seats, Only 13,000 Miles <b>SALE PRICE \$23,995</b></p>	<p><b>2014 TOYOTA CAMRY</b> Auto, Fully Loaded <b>SALE PRICE \$13,995</b></p>	<p><b>2012 CHEVY SONIC HATCHBACK</b> 5 Door, LT Package, Only 50,000 Miles, Stock #7149A <b>SALE PRICE \$7,995</b></p>	<p><b>2005 FORD E-450 14 PASSENGER BUS</b> Wheel Chair Ramp, Only 65,000 Miles <b>SALE PRICE \$12,995</b></p>
<p><b>2015 CHRYSLER TOWN &amp; COUNTRY</b> Stow &amp; Go Seating, Fully Loaded <b>SALE PRICE \$18,995</b></p>	<p><b>2014 FORD F-350</b> 4x4, 2-3 Yard Dump Body, 6.7 Liter Power Stroke Diesel, Like New <b>SALE PRICE \$40,995</b></p>	<p><b>2011 CHEVY EQUINOX</b> AWD, LT Package <b>SALE PRICE \$12,995</b></p>	<p><b>2005 CHEVY 2500 CREW CAB</b> Duramax Diesel, 4x4, 8 ft Fisher Plow, One Owner, Stock #7083A <b>SALE PRICE \$12,995</b></p>
<p><b>2015 CHEVY CRUZE</b> LT Package, Only 16,000 Miles, Stock #1547 <b>SALE PRICE \$13,995</b></p>	<p><b>2014 CHEVY EQUINOX</b> AWD, LS Package, One Owner, Only 18,000 Miles <b>SALE PRICE \$17,995</b></p>	<p><b>2011 CHEVY 1500 CREW CAB</b> 4x4, LT Package, One Owner <b>SALE PRICE \$20,995</b></p>	<p><b>2003 FORD F-250 CREW CAB</b> XL Package, 4x4, Power Stroke Diesel <b>SALE PRICE \$6,995</b></p>
<p><b>2015 FORD T-350 15 PASSENGER VAN</b> Fully Loaded <b>SALE PRICE \$23,995</b></p>	<p><b>2014 CHEVY CAPTIVA</b> FWD, Auto, Fully Loaded <b>SALE PRICE \$11,995</b></p>		

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# calendar

## LIBRARIES

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5-** BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - "The Opiate Effect," film and discussion with Skip Gates, 7 p.m. at the Rockingham Free Public Library, 65 Westminster St. This powerful documentary features the story of Will Gates, a University of Vermont student who overdosed on heroin. Skip Gates, Will's father, will discuss the impact that experience has had on his family to educate us all about the dangers of opiate prescription drugs and heroin. Other participants include Capt. John Merrigan, Commander of Special Investigations with the Vermont State Police; Michael Johnson and Brandy Cheney of Turning Point Recovery Center of Springfield; the Brattleboro Comprehensive Treatment center; and staff from Rockingham Free Public Library and Greater Falls Connections. The program includes the film, discussion of the drug

epidemic in Vermont, an optional Narcan training, and a candlelight vigil. The program is supported by Greater Falls Connections.

**SOUTH LONDONDERRY, Vt.** - The South Londonderry Free Library, 15 Old School St., holds computer instruction with Marc Fontaine April 12, beginning at 7:15 p.m. and Saturday, April 15 at 11 a.m. For more information, contact the library at 824-3371 or email southlondonderryfreeibrary@yahoo.com.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 7-** BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - The Friends of the Rockingham Free Public Library will be hosting a special book sale just for Friends members on Friday, April 7, 5 - 8 p.m. Join the Friends to get early access to the library book sale.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 8-** BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - The Rockingham Free Public Library

begins its three-week-long spring book sale, running until Saturday, April 29. For more information, call the library at 802-463-4270, visit rockinghamlibrary.org, email programming@rockinghamlibrary.org or stop by the library at 65 Westminster St.

**MOUNT HOLLY, Vt.** - "Ask the Local Computer Expert." Free computer training, troubleshooting your computer problems and questions answered. 10:30 a.m. at the Mount Holly Town Library, 26 Maple Hill, Belmont. Please email mthollylibrary@gmail to sign up.

**SOUTH LONDONDERRY, Vt.** - The South Londonderry Free Library is celebrating spring with a special program for children on Saturday, April 8 at 10:30 a.m. Children are invited to join art teacher Casey Junker Bailey for the making of elegant hats and decorations for the Easter table. The program is free of

charge and appropriate for children of all ages. For more information, contact the Library at 824-3371.

**ASCUTNEY, Vt.** - The Weathersfield Proctor Library hosts its sixth annual Town Challenge on Saturday, April 8 at 7 p.m. at the Weathersfield School in Ascutney. Teams from town departments will answer trivia questions in six categories: spelling, town history, current events/sports, "Name That Tune," geography, and literature. Be ready to applaud or laugh! This event will raise funds to match a grant for up to \$15,000 from the Byrne Foundation to enlarge the children's area. Call Cookie Shand at 802-674-5021 for more information.

**APRIL 9 - 15-** BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - In observance of National Library Week, April 9-15, the staff at the Rockingham Library will be offering a new service called Your Next Three Books. After filling out a short form about their reading preferences, patrons will receive three staff recommendations on what to read next. This process takes about a week. Your Next Three Books form can be filled out online at rockinghamlibrary.org/personalizedbook. Paper copies of the form are also available at the library's front desk. As always, the staff values patrons' privacy and will keep your answers strictly confidential. For more information, call 802-463-4270, email programming@rockinghamlibrary.org, go to www.rockinghamlibrary.org, or stop by the library at 65 Westminster St.

**MONDAY, APRIL 10-** BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - On Monday, April 10 at 7 p.m., Curtiss Reed, executive director of the Vermont Partnership for Fairness and Diversity, will present and facilitate a talk and workshop, "How To Have A Difficult Dialogue," at the Rockingham Free Public Library. This program is presented by the library in partnership with Parks Place Community Resource Center and Greater Falls Connections. Having a dialogue with someone you perceive as the "other" or who perceives you as the "other" is challenging at best. Reed will discuss strategies and tactics to advance difficult dialogues across racial, political, and religious divides. This program is free and open to the public. For more information, call 802-463-4270, email programming@

rockinghamlibrary.org or go to www.rockinghamlibrary.org.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12-** SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - "Celtic Music and Tales" with Claudine Langille, longtime singer and instrumentalist on banjo, mandolin and guitar with the famed Gypsy Reel. This riveting performer will share toe-tapping tunes from her repertoire and true tales from her travels with Gypsy Reel and with Touchstone, her award-winning band in the 1980s. She has been featured on the internationally broadcast Thisle and Shamrock radio show, and is listed in Wikipedia as a "Noteworthy Irish mandolinist." This event is free, accessible to people with disabilities, and open to the public. Sponsored by the Friends of the Springfield Town Library. Please call the Springfield Town Library at 885-3108 for more information.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 13-** Books and Cooks. Make springtime basket cookies, 3-4 p.m. Fletcher Memorial Library. Limited to 8. 802-228-3517.

## MEETINGS

**THURSDAY, APRIL 27-** WINDSOR, Vt. - The Ascutney Trails Association's annual meeting will be held on Thursday, April 27, from 6-8 p.m. at the Windsor Town Welcome Center. We are looking for volunteers, new members, and directors. The director's meeting will begin at 6 p.m., followed by a presentation from Rick White, state lands forester responsible for the management of Ascutney State Park. Mr. White will be discussing the Ascutney Management Unit long range management plan. If you have a passion for Mount Ascutney and its history, and are willing to assist in the maintenance of present and future hiking trails, please join us! Light refreshments will be served. For more information you can link to our Facebook page by visiting www.ascutneytrailsassociation.org, or call Steve Giroux at 802-674-6369.

## SCHOOLS

**TUESDAY, MAY 2-** MOUNT HOLLY, Vt. - Preschool registration for children who will be 3 years old on or before Aug. 31, 2017. Tuesday, May 2, 2017, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. by appointment. Please bring: a birth certificate and all

immunization records. Children must attend for screening. Note to parents: please plan to spend some time completing the registration forms. Mount Holly Elementary School, 150 School St., Mount Holly, 802-259-2392.

## SUPPORT GROUPS

**MONDAYS -** SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - NAMI Vermont Connection Recovery Support Group is a mental illness support group. It provides a forum to share experiences and learn about opportunities and challenges regardless of diagnostics. HCRS, CRT Room, 390 River St. Meets every Monday from 1 - 2 p.m. Info: call 800-639-6480 or visit www.namivt.org.

**TUESDAYS-** SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Breast Feeding Support Group 2nd and 4th Tuesday at the Springfield Hospital Library Level D. 12 - 2 p.m. It is free and no registration is required. For more information call Erin at 885-7511.

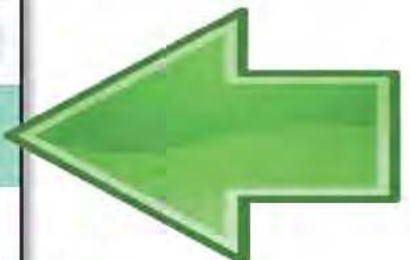
**LUDLOW, Vt.** - Co-Dependents Anonymous meets on Tuesdays starting April 4, 6:30-7:45 p.m. in the basement of the Fletcher Memorial Library, 88 Main St. in Ludlow. Find out more about CoDA at coda.org. For more information regarding this meeting, contact Sarah E. at sarahcoda2016@gmail.com.

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** - Just Us Moms Program (JUMP). Come with your children. Have dinner with other moms in the area, learn about resources, and have fun while your children play, and eat dinner. 5 - 7 p.m. at Cherry Hill School. Contact Michelle 275-7871.

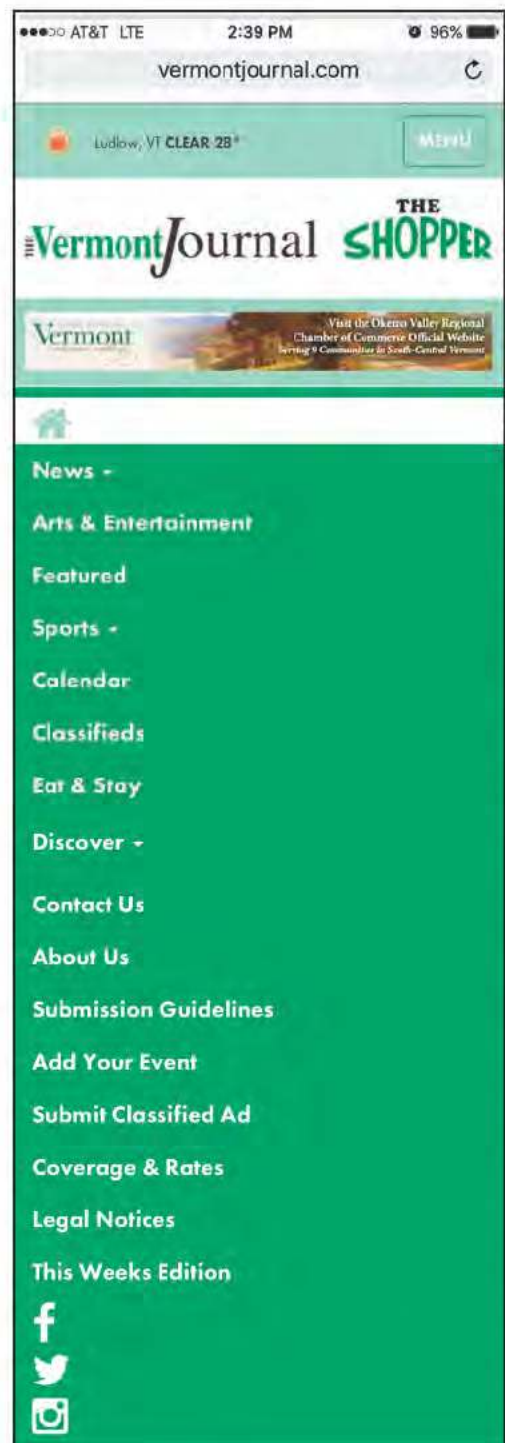
**SECOND TUESDAY -** SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Wellness/Lifestyle Change Support Group, meets the second Tuesday of each month from 5:45-7 p.m. at the Springfield Health Center, 100 River St. FREE. Register by calling 802-886-8946 or email cht@springfieldmed.org.

**WEDNESDAYS -** LONDONDERRY, Vt. - Weekly clean and sober 12-Step Meeting. Support Group meets at Neighborhood Connections next to the Londonderry Post Office at 5:30 p.m. every Wednesday.

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