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Holiday Happenings on Page 9A



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## Springfield town manager gone after eight months -

BY JO ROBBINS

The Shopper

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - The Springfield Selectboard went into deliberative session Monday night, Nov. 30, following an hour long remote public hearing where Town Manager Steve Neratko gave testimony to explain his failure to assume residency - as required by his contract and the town charter - within six months of his date of hire, April 1.

When the board came out of session, a motion was made by vice-chair Michael Martin to approve the resolution calling for Neratko's termination effective immediately. The motion passed unanimously with no discussion among members Walter Martone, Martin, John Bond, Kristi Morris, and George McNaughton.

It has been eight months since Neratko of Dover took over the position as town manager following the retirement of Tom Yennerell. Neratko was on administrative leave prior to this night. He said he made every effort to find a home to buy or rent. He looked at 50 houses, put offers on a few and even

deposits, but his hopes were dashed after inspections were completed. Neratko said he felt strongly that the town manager should live in the town that employs him, and he hoped to have a long career and a home here but that the housing market and the pandemic made it extremely difficult. He told Chairman Walter Martone that looking at houses was at first an issue because of Covid-19 restrictions and then later, as the pandemic spread, his wife's preexisting conditions put her at risk. Neratko said he spoke of those difficulties to Martone and Martin often during their weekly meetings.

On Nov. 5, a Windham County sheriff came to Neratko's Dover home to serve him with the draft resolution for his termination.

Neratko was represented by counsel, Aimee Goddard, who was not sworn in as a fact witness but asked questions of the board and its witnesses. Attorney Stephen Ankuda of Springfield appeared for the town.

Chair Martone was sworn in as a witness and the vice-chair temporarily assumed the role of chair. Goddard asked Martone

if he had spoken to Neratko about the resolution after the Oct. 1 deadline, and he said he did not. Goddard asked Martone how many days after service is made must the board meet. Martone answered five days. She asked if he spoke to Neratko about the resolution between the day of service and this hearing. Martone had no comment. When pressed further, Martone said he had nothing to say, as the board had not taken action on the resolution.

Martone asked Ankuda if the board had any authority to make a policy exception for Neratko. Ankuda said he was not aware of anything in the charter or state law that would allow deviation from the charter as passed by the Legislature.

Ankuda called witnesses Police Chief Mark Fountain, Parks and Recreation director Andy Blydyka, Town administrative assistant Brian Benoit, and president of Lovejoy Tool Company Todd Priestly who all said they felt it is important that the manager live in the town. Attorney Ankuda asked all witnesses if there were times when it was necessary to contact the town manager after hours. Fountain

answered yes, for important issues - cases of shootings, stabbings, and abductions. Blydyka referenced a child's injury during a sport's event. Benoit said when racist graffiti was painted on a bridge. Priestly spoke of a parking lease.

Although the subject of the hearing was contractual residency, several witnesses told the board Neratko often failed to respond to phone calls and emails, and Benoit talked about the manager's absences from the office. Martone, Goddard, and Ankuda had to remind the witnesses more than once about the reason for the hearing.

Springfield's charter is 35 years old. In neighboring Massachusetts, many towns have done away with the residency requirement because it limits the pool of qualified candidates. In Vermont towns the residency requirement still exists.

When asked by Goddard about the charter, Martone said at the last town meeting voters approved the removal of the residency provision, but that it has not yet been approved by the state. When asked how long that might take, Martone said he didn't know and that some-

times it takes months and even a year.

The board moved to adjourn immediately after the resolution was approved.

At a special meeting, Nov. 11, the Selectboard approved the appointment of Frank Heald as

the interim town manager from Nov. 12, 2020 to Jan. 15, 2021. Heald was the Ludlow Town Manager for 15 years until his retirement in May of 2018. He recently served as the interim town manager in Woodstock, Vt.

### Jack is back!

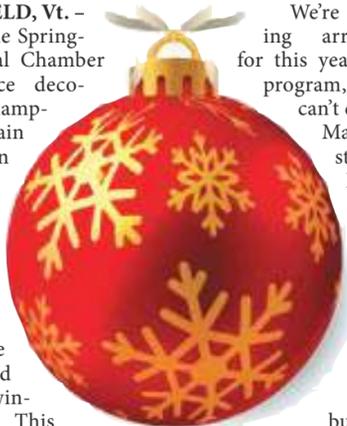


Jack is back and ready to get down to business! Jack made the journey from the North Pole early this year, and returned to our office after self-isolating. Now he can enjoy the whole month with us all. Jack has been cleaning and sanitizing the office diligently preparing for the holiday season.

PHOTO PROVIDED

## Light a pole for the holidays in downtown Springfield

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Every year the Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce decorates the lamp-posts on Main Street in downtown Springfield with banners and white lights to bring sparkle and cheer to the neighborhood during the winter months. This tradition helps to create an inviting avenue for visitors passing through our lovely town, and creates a sense of warmth and community for all who live here.



We're busy making arrangements for this year's holiday program, but we can't do it alone.

Many of the strands of LED lights we used last year are now worn out and need to be replaced. The cost of buying new lights is significant, but if we work together, we can make it happen. We are looking for businesses, organizations, and individuals who might be interested

to sponsor a pole lighting, to assist us in continuing to bring this special tradition to Springfield.

Sponsors will be recognized via social media and a press release, and you will have the warm fuzzy feeling of contributing to our beautiful community in a meaningful way. We appreciate any and all support. Anyone with questions about Lighting A Pole, please contact Caitlin at the Chamber at 802-885-2779 or caitlin@springfieldvt.com. Checks can be made payable to "Springfield Regional Chamber" and sent to Springfield Regional Chamber, 56 Main Street, Suite 2, Springfield, VT 05156.

## Vermont Community Foundation makes investment in Park Street School

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Springfield Regional Development Corporation has announced that it has received a \$300,000 investment from the Vermont Community Foundation to support ongoing predevelopment work at the former Park Street School in Springfield.

SRDC Executive Director Bob Flint said that the funds would help to complete architectural and engineering work for what is currently estimated at a \$23 million redevelopment of the former school property to house the Black River Innovation Campus as well as maintain current communi-

ty uses. "We are very appreciative of the strong commitment by the Vermont Community Foundation for this downtown community redevelopment project," Flint said.



BRIC will develop its new home. PHOTO PROVIDED

Dan Smith, president and CEO of the Vermont Community Foundation, said that the funding represents the foundation's ongoing support of the BRIC project and its importance to the revitalization of Springfield. "We want to reinvigorate downtowns and create opportunity for community members through our investments. Park Street School will support entrepreneurs and new business ventures in Springfield, and we're excited to see what the future holds," says Smith.

Flint said that SRDC is actively working to pursue funding for the full redevelopment project.

## Rockingham Selectboard discuss budgets

BY BETSY THURSTON

The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. - On Tuesday, Nov. 17, the Rockingham Selectboard discussed next year's preliminary operating budget with Municipal Manager Scott Pickup and Finance Director Shannon Burbela.

Pickup said they were looking into developing a night drop to enable continued services throughout the pandemic. He explained they had submitted for Covid-19 reimbursements but were unsure what the next fiscal year would bring.

Burbela said that the town of Rockingham had \$200,000 in past due taxes but suggested foregoing tax sales to cut \$50,000 from the budget. She explained that some were al-

ready in payment agreements and each tax sale generally costs \$150,000 over three years with potential income not seen until the second year.

The town would like to make Development Director Gary Fox's position full time. Burbela noted, "The environment has changed," and Gary works for both the town and village. She suggested they request the salary difference from the Village Trustees at the Joint Board meeting in December.

The Recycling Center was recommended to stay open three days per week, requiring \$20,000 more for personnel wages.

Burbela said that Covid grants might offset the \$50,000 in expenses and explained grant revenue would be seen in

fiscal year 2022.

Peter Golec asked about the \$12,000 budgeted for an executive assistant. Scott Pickup explained they were looking to share the assistant with the Planning & Zoning and Listers Offices. Pickup reminded the board that the five-year tax agreement with Great River Hydro is due and between the three departments "We could share some of the burden."

On Golec's question about \$15,000 in maintenance wages, Burbela said, "In some capacity we will need somebody" to oversee building

maintenance.

Stefan Golec was concerned about the expected revenue in reference to last week's tax payments. He said, "We still have this pandemic going on.



Rockingham discusses budgets. PHOTO PROVIDED

In some respects, it's increasing and getting worse." He explained he knows community members who have lost hours, jobs, and insurance.

Golec said, "I'm going to be ultra-conservative this year. I would hope the board, as they usually do, keep all of this in mind. We need to be sympathetic and understanding."

Chair Gaetano Putignano said that in March "I think we did a good job... heeding that warning and we made adjustments."

With many businesses closing again, Putignano said, "I don't think we've seen the full impact." He suggested spending with caution. "I think this is the year we reduce taxes - it's time to rearrange budgets, doing more with less."

Burbela reminded the board, "Since I've been here, I haven't had a budget that's gone over." She said everyone is working "multiple jobs and wearing multiple hats, and we will continue doing that."

Putignano agreed, "I trust that you do, but some of these businesses are not going to open back up ever."

Stefan Golec said, "We need to start thinking differently - how we are spending...now is the time we can hope for the best, but we have got to plan for the worst."

The Rockingham Selectboard meetings are held on the first and third Tuesdays each month at 6 p.m. in the Lower Theater of the Opera House and meetings are also available online on Fact TV.

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### DEADLINES

The deadline for all content is Friday at 12 p.m. for the following Wednesday publication.

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# 2020 Old House Award winners announced

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – The Rockingham Historic Preservation Commission has announced 2020 Old House Awards winners.

These annual awards sponsored by the commission are designed to recognize property owners in the town of Rockingham who are maintaining and restoring their historic homes and commercial and industrial buildings. Eligible properties are older homes and businesses that have been renovated, painted, or otherwise enhanced on the exterior in the past five years. Brass plaques are distributed to the winners.

This year's winners are:  
 • Susan F. Allen and Jill A. King, owners of 24 South St., Bellows Falls. The home is a

Queen Anne Victorian built in 1913.

• Rebecca and Matthew Allen, owners of 116 Westminster St., Bellows Falls. The home is a country cottage built in 1880.

• Charles and Tina Niedbala, owners of 52 Griswold Dr., Bellows Falls. The home is a mid-century modern built in 1958.

• Raymond and Virginia Massucco, owners of 90 Westminster St., Bellows Falls. The commercial property of a classic 19th-century design was built circa 1800 and expanded in 1890.

• Robert McBride, owner of 95-99 Rockingham St., Bellows Falls. A multi-family residential property originally built circa 1820 in a Cape Cod style with vernacular add-ons.

Those with properties receiving honorable mention by the commission are Jennifer Gurley of Rockingham Roasters, 3 Rockingham St., Bellows Falls; the Wallace Family, 10 Grove St., Saxtons River; John and Leslie Marston, Leslie's the Tavern at Rockingham; and Jayson and Marcie Dunbar, 19 South St.

Traditionally the Historic Preservation Commission hosts an awards ceremony to publicly celebrate restoration and conservation efforts in the town of Rockingham. Due to Covid restrictions the 2020 gathering will be scheduled at a future date yet to be determined.

For more information about the Old House Awards, contact Walter Wallace, town historic preservation coordinator, at [clg@rockbf.org](mailto:clg@rockbf.org).

See a photo of each winning home online at [www.vermontjournal.com](http://www.vermontjournal.com).

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 Like BFDDA on FB // Visit [bellowsfallsvt.org](http://bellowsfallsvt.org)

# Bellows Falls Historical Society is Shaw's beneficiary for December

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – The Bellows Falls Historical Society has been chosen as beneficiary of the Shaw's Give Back Where It Counts reusable shopping bag program for the month of December.

For every reusable tote bag that is purchased at the Ames Plaza Shaw's in Walpole, N.H., the historical

society will receive \$1. The display is located at the front of the store, near the check out lines.

Shaw's Give Back Where It Counts program was launched in April of 2019. It facilitates community support with the goal of making a difference in the communities where shoppers actually live and work.

The Bellows Falls Historical

Society is a nonprofit dedicated to preserving and maintaining our fascinating local history. We have a lively and active Facebook page as well as a website where you can get more information about the society, [www.BellowsFallsHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.BellowsFallsHistoricalSociety.org). We are very excited to be chosen for the month of December. Think of us when you're shopping at Shaw's.

# Springfield Town Library supports your family's fun and learning

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** –

While Springfield Town Library has rolled back to curbside service, we want you to know that we are here to support your family. The library can be your "go to" for family fun in your home and support for your child's

learning.

Did you know that in addition to books, Springfield Town Library offers puzzles and games as well as PlayAway Launchpads, preloaded with fantastic learning games? Visit [www.springfieldtownlibrary.org](http://www.springfieldtownlibrary.org) to access our catalog and put holds on items you are interested in. Also available via the website is World Book Online with access to information for every age. You will also find the sign up for our favorite library program – 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten with rewards along the way.

We have created Book Bundles for the younger crowd. The bundles contain three books on

a popular topic and activity suggestions – from alligators to trains, there are many to choose from.

We have been busy creating Take and Make bags. In December there will be kits that include Candy Cane Ornaments, a Rhyming Reindeer Game, The Dreidel Game, a Sticker Gingerbread House, and Create a Bauble. Something for everyone and every age group.

The Springfield Town Library is providing curbside pick-ups of library materials, just pick out the titles you are interested in via our website or call 802-885-3108 or email [stlib@vermontel.net](mailto:stlib@vermontel.net) with your requests and to schedule a pick-up time!

# Grace Cottage food service manager receives national award

**TOWNSHEND, Vt.** – Grace Cottage Family Health & Hospital Food Service Manager Denise Choleva has been named the Certified Dietary Manager of the Month by the national Association of Nutri-

tion & Foodservice Professionals. Choleva has worked in food service at Grace Cottage for 22 years and has managed the department since 2002.

In her position at Grace Cottage, she promotes camaraderie among her staff with the slogan that "teamwork makes the dream work." She calls herself a "working manager" and regularly works in the kitchen alongside her staff. Grace Cottage Hospital receives many thank you notes from former inpatients who comment on how much they appreciated the delicious food created by Choleva's department. "I have the best team a girl could ask for," she says.

Choleva says that her training to become a certified dietary manager and a certified food protection professional has been invaluable to her work at Grace Cottage.

She values innovation. The Covid-19 pandemic has pushed the Grace Cottage food service department to innovate by shifting from a serve-yourself salad bar to grab-and-go items. These and the hot food choices accommodate a range of dietary preferences and needs, from vegetarian and gluten-free to traditional meals with health-conscious adaptations. Composting and recycling are also an important part of the department's processes.

In her menu planning, Choleva also emphasizes fresh and local foods. "We have lots of local farmers and we purchase as much local and sustainable foods as possible," she said, adding, "I am lucky in southern Vermont to have Food Connects, who works with local farmers to distribute their items. Last year, 38% of our food expenses supported local producers." Grace Cottage has signed the U.S.-Canadian Healthy Food in Healthcare pledge.

Choleva has been a member of ANFP since 2001. She has served as secretary, treasurer, and president for the Vermont ANFP and was recently chosen as a subject matter expert for the national ANFP credentialing exam task force. She is also involved with the Vermont Healthy Food in Healthcare Workgroup.

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# LOCAL HISTORY

BY RON PATCH

Ron Patch is a Chester native, Chester Historical Society president, and a lifelong antiques dealer.

He can be reached at 802-374-0119 or email [knotz69@gmail.com](mailto:knotz69@gmail.com)

## Junior High School

The Academy Building was built in 1881 as the Central High School. When the new high school was built on Depot Hill, circa 1911, the Central became a graded school. When Chester Elementary was built, the Central became Chester Junior High School.

Years ago I heard it said that the Central was built from recycled bricks from the original Chester Academy. This probably isn't true. Chester Academy was built in 1814 of soft brick. The current Academy Building is built of hard brick. But up in the attic of the Academy Building are ancient hand-hewn timbers.

Well before 1881 hewing timbers had been replaced with sawmills. These are large timbers maybe 8-by-8 inches. What was recycled from Chester Academy was these old timbers.

In my day this school was the Junior High School. I have many memories of both teachers and happenings here.

**Mr. Clough**  
Mr. Clough, pronounced like "rough," was our science teacher. Mr. Clough was different. I remember a parent saying he probably should be teaching college not grade schoolers. He often began class reading poetry to us. We hated it, but Mr. Clough was going to learn us. Sometimes he got teary-eyed as he read to us.

I remember Mr. Clough teaching us about reproduction. You know body fluids etc. Some of us kids knew he was talking about sex. One kid asked, "How do body fluids pass from one body to another?" We knew we just wanted to put him on the spot. Mr. Clough replied, "Through body contact."

Mr. Clough really had bad breath. He often said you didn't need toothpaste; baking soda worked just fine. Believe me this isn't true. He pronounced electricity as "electwicity."

**Mrs. Stocker**  
Mrs. Stocker taught French, music, and math. She was a lively teacher and well liked. One day in 1964 I got in trouble. I don't remember now what crime I had committed, but I was guilty. I ran down into the boys' bathroom to escape her pursuit.

When she followed me into the boys' bathroom, I said to her, "You can't come in here." To which she replied, "You don't have anything I haven't seen before." Curses foiled



The Academy Building with gravestones below. PHOTO PROVIDED BY CHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

again.

**Mr. Richardson**  
I didn't like Mr. Richardson. I thought he was a little dictator. In June of 1965 I graduated Chester Junior High School. We were all looking forward to going to Chester High School with the big kids.

My last class that year was upstairs in Richardson's class. A neat store for us kids was Ruth's Gifts. Ruth sold all kinds of novelties. Do you remember the buzzer you held in your hand? When you shook someone's hand, they got a good jolt. This is where I bought the party popper. "Anyhoo," as my mother used to say, us kids went running down the stairs for the last time. In my pocket was the party popper. Party poppers looked like a miniature bottle of champagne with a little ripcord. As I started down the stairs, I pulled the ripcord. There was a loud pop and confetti flew.

Richardson grabbed me and dragged me back upstairs into the office for punishment. He stormed in the office with me in tow exclaiming, "This boy lit off a firecracker!" Lucky for me, Arnold had no problem with my criminal activity.

In my day we walked down to the elementary school for hot lunch. We were not escorted. Some of us kids skipped across

the street to Pember Hazen's drug store. Here we spent our lunchtime sitting at the soda fountain. This was a lot of fun. Pember never liked me.

Another memory is when President Kennedy was assassinated. I was in Mrs. Griffith's room upstairs. We were all sent home from school early that day. I remember walking home trying to understand what happened.

And there was the day Bud Nadeau jumped out of the second story window. We had a substitute teacher that day. Bud stood up and said, "I've had enough of this," and jumped out the window. Bud knew he would land on the fire escape. The teacher turned white as a ghost. Soon Bud came up the fire escape and entered the room. God those days were fun.

The photo with this article is in the 2021 Chester Historical Society calendar. They are available at Blair Books & More, Chester Hardware, Framery of Vermont, Stone House Antiques Center, Town Hall, and Smitty's Chester Market.

*This week's old saying my mother used: "The bigger your kids get the bigger your problems get."*

## VAULT Open Wall Show: People, Places, and Things

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Gallery at the VAULT is proud to present a new Open Wall Show "People, Places, and Things." This show includes beautiful photographs, paintings, paper sculpture, an artist cutout book, encaustics, cyanotype, jewelry, fiber art, and needlework. What a beautiful and diverse collection of works by your neighbors and friends! The art will be on display until Dec. 26. Open Wall is a non-ju-



"Autumn Rush" by Shane Harris. PHOTO PROVIDED

ried show for any artists living in a 30-mile radius of Springfield. Let us know if you would like to participate.

Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main Street in Springfield, is open Wednesday and Saturday, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., and Friday, from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. For more information, call 802-885-7111, email [galleryvault@vermontel.net](mailto:galleryvault@vermontel.net), or visit [www.galleryvault.org](http://www.galleryvault.org).

## Gov. Scott calls on Vermonters to decorate with lights

MONTPELIER, Vt. – Gov. Phil Scott is encouraging families and businesses to help show Vermont Lights the Way, an effort to literally brighten communities and neighborhoods around the state by decorating homes, businesses, trees, or other creative ideas to help celebrate the holidays during the pandemic.

"I know how hard this pandemic has been, especially as we make our way through the holidays without the 'normal' get-togethers and sense of closeness we all want," said Scott. "So, in celebration of the coming holiday season, I think it's time to lift our spirits. Let's get creative and show the world that Ver-

monsters are here for each other and that even through these dark and difficult times, Vermont Lights the Way."

In addition to decorating, Vermonters should share pictures of their displays – or favorites from around the community – on social media using the hashtag #VTLightsTheWay. This will allow those who are not able to tour the lights to take part in the holiday celebration.

The Vermont Association of Broadcasters and Vermont businesses and organizations are supporting this effort to help bring cheer to the coming holiday season. Photos posted using the #VTLightsTheWay

hashtag could be chosen by a news outlet and shared on their pages to help spread the light.

"I hope this effort will spread joy and hope, especially for our kids," the governor added. "We can make a holiday season during a once-in-a-century pandemic truly memorable for our kids in a fun and positive way. Together, we can celebrate this season and remind each other that there are brighter days ahead."

The governor hopes for strong participation in these trying times to prove that once again, Vermont Lights the Way.

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# opinion

# COMMUNITY NEWS

Dear Editor,

It has been a true pleasure seeing the transformation of the historic 1868 Woolson Block on my daily trips in Springfield. I thank all who pursued the funding, planning, and expert work on all aspects of this stunning building. How wonderful that it will provide both housing and beautiful, downtown retail space.

I appreciate all the efforts over the past several years to restore historic buildings as well as open up the riverfront above the Comtu Falls by removing some buildings. This provides an open space where people can safely gather outdoors, perhaps over cups of coffee from Flying Crow Coffee. Among its many endeavors, Springfield on the Move adds to the downtown beauty with whimsical plant-

ings in front of the movie theater and Town Hall. The Springfield Garden Club's sidewalk boxes and plantings border our trips through town. Thank you to SOM, the Garden Club, and all who make Springfield beautiful in many ways!

Many thanks to the Springfield Chamber of Commerce for its work in promoting Springfield businesses, including the upcoming Local Loyalty Program. Be sure to read Top Ten Reasons to Shop Local on their website, [www.springfieldvt.com](http://www.springfieldvt.com), which includes "Small local businesses build strong communities by encouraging neighborhood relationships, both social and economic. Area businesses give back to local causes and help to support vibrant town centers."

Gallery at the VAULT has been a downtown store and arts center for the past 19 years. As a long time volunteer, I value the role of Vault as a marketplace for artists who have not been able to sell directly through in-person craft fairs. I thank Vault's small part-time staff, volunteers, board members, members, donors, and customers who keep Vault's doors open. In these difficult times, it is pure pleasure for people to walk into this lovely space and see the creations of some 125 craftspeople and art-

ists, and admire the ingenuity of friends and neighbors in Vault's unique Open Wall exhibits.

I am also thankful for the funding we received from the Vermont Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts that have helped us pay basic expenses after being closed from March until May. A current ReVTA grant has enabled us to have a new website with the capacity to sell online. Thank you to Mike Dion from Indelible for making this happen, and thank you to Steven Osterlund for managing our website for many years. Thanks also to Claremont Savings Bank for contributing to our technological makeover through their CSB Grant Program.

We hope to see you at Gallery at the VAULT! Proud to be a Vermont State Craft Center, we are open on Wednesday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. We also invite you to set up your own shopping appointment for up to five people on upcoming Sunday afternoons. Call 802-885-7111 to reserve. Thank you!

Sincerely,  
Diane Kemble  
Springfield, Vt.

Dear Editor,

It is with deepest appreciation and regret that I announce that the Senior Solutions Board accepted the resignation of its executive director Carol Stamatakis. During her tenure as executive director of Senior Solutions, this organization grew in its ability to provide services to aging Vermonters within its service boundaries.

By bringing her skills in grant writing, nonprofit organization management, and judicial acumen, Carol brought positive support to underserved populations in Windsor and Windham counties. Through the implementation of programs

for veterans and their families, Carol found ways to provide life assistance to people, employees, and volunteers.

Carol's connections to hospice, aging, and judicial programs assisted Senior Solutions in developing systems that bring wide ranges of assistance and care to these underserved members of our state. With her excellent financial management attributes, she enabled Senior Solutions to operate under a balanced budget while instituting new programs and technological assistance for the aging Vermonters within our region.

With sincerest gratitude and thanks, the board wholeheartedly wishes Carol fulfillment

to her calling to support vulnerable adults in her future endeavors.

As the board begins its quest for a new executive director, our search aims to deliver a vital and progressively future embracing individual who continues the strong proactive leadership Carol brought to our organization within the next six months.

If you have any questions, please contact me at [bwoods@seniorsolutionsvt.org](mailto:bwoods@seniorsolutionsvt.org).

Sincerely,  
Barbara Woods, president  
Senior Solutions  
Council on Aging for South-eastern Vermont

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank the many people who sent me cards and wonderful memories on my 94th birthday. What a great day and I shall read them again and again.

Sincerely,  
Constance H. Bixby  
Ludlow, Vt.



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**Weekly SUDOKU**  
by Linda Thistle

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

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

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

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**King Crossword**

**ACROSS**

- 1 "Grand"
- 5 Letterman's network
- 8 Out of control
- 12 Suspend
- 13 Weeding tool
- 14 Wise one
- 15 Killer whale
- 16 Lineage
- 18 Astronauts' descent to Earth
- 20 Locations
- 21 Comic DeLuise
- 22 Satchel
- 23 "Forget it!"
- 26 Nation
- 30 Lawyers' org.
- 31 Sly one
- 32 Nay opponent
- 33 Racism, e.g.
- 36 Aden's land
- 38 Bill and —
- 39 Adams or Ameche
- 40 Clean software
- 43 Turducken, e.g.
- 47 Immoderate devotion
- 49 Met melody
- 50 Taj Mahal city
- 51 Trouble
- 52 Ring up
- 53 Lecherous

**DOWN**

- 1 Valhalla VIP
- 2 Aesopian also-ran
- 3 Formerly
- 4 Landlocked
- 5 African nation
- 5 Amulet
- 6 Skeletal
- 7 Moment
- 8 Delegate
- 9 Dillon or Damon
- 10 Shrek, for one
- 11 Jailer's janglers
- 17 Jacob's brother
- 19 Plaything
- 22 Carton
- 23 Apprehend
- 24 Japanese sash
- 25 Witty one
- 26 Coquettish
- 27 Scot's hat
- 28 Deli bread
- 29 Longing
- 31 To and —
- 34 Eye-related
- 35 Forum garment
- 36 Second person
- 37 Intertwine
- 39 Senior member
- 40 Soap brand
- 41 Advantage
- 42 Drill
- 43 Front of a ship
- 44 Snare
- 45 Irritate
- 46 New Haven campus
- 48 Pair

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of the annual event. Marketing director Melinda Crowl will edit the submissions into a virtual occasion for viewing on Facebook, YouTube, our website, etc. We will publish the video the following week; please share it.

Local students organized by Amy Maroney and her remarkable team of parents and teachers will complete the wreath laying. These are the same students who prepare the wreaths with bows and complete them for the honor of remembering our heroes.

We invite you to drive through the home at some point during the holiday season to observe the wreaths placed to Remember, Honor, and Teach about those who have served our great nation.

Please join us virtually. If you do not pass on these traditions, who will?

**Semper Fidelis**  
A.M. FAXON JR  
Colonel U.S. Marines (Ret)  
Deputy & COO Vermont Veterans' Home

## Don't fall-la-la-la for holiday scams

**REGION** – As we enter this joyous holiday season, we need to double our attention to criminal fraud. Let's start with a few basic rules:

1. Slow down. Marketing in America uses urgency to trigger responses, and scammers do

the same thing. Don't make decisions when you are rushed, as that is when mistakes happen.

2. If it's too good to be true... Yes, there are some excellent buying opportunities, but always keep in mind that when something is offered free or at a "deep

discount" there could be fraud involved. Businesses do not survive unless they can make a profit on sales so double check the offer using independent sources and be careful shopping online. Criminals are very good at impersonation using technology to deceive you into believing something is legitimate when it is not.

3. Don't allow emotion to be the primary motivation. When people get emotional with joy, fear, sadness, or anxiety, they often lose their sense of logic and reason. This creates vulnerability to targeted appeals, both legitimate and criminal. Somber music, alarming photography, and well-chosen words spoken in a deliberate fashion are powerful influencers.

Now that you are ready to venture out or online for your holiday activities, be aware of the following traps. Bogus holiday jobs are promoted primarily by email and social media. Do some background work with independent verification of the job before responding to any offers. Fraudulent offers are often phishing expeditions to collect, use, and sell your personal information. Legitimate job offers do not ask you to pay a fee or assessment.

Package delivery scams are growing in number. These are usually efforts to either extract personal information or collect payment for "unanticipated" fees associated with the delivery. Combined with outright package theft from doorsteps, the expectation is that nearly 25 million customers will be impacted this year. You can nearly eliminate the risks by having the packages held at pick up locations that are used by major shipping companies. In the absence of a location,

schedule the delivery for a convenient time.

Carefully examine email offers before opening any links and avoid downloading any software. One clear sign that things are not as they appear can be an email address that does not match the promoted source of the email. These scams are generally presented as surveys but are designed to collect your personal information.

Conduct a background check when doing online shopping from companies that are new to you. Legitimacy can be checked through your state attorney general's office or the Better Business Bureau. Don't place an order providing any credit card information unless you are absolutely certain of the status of the company and its payment procedure is secure.

Verify before you donate! On one hand there are fake charities that use this season of giving as an opportunity to deceive, but there are also legitimate money raising efforts that may not be what they appear to be. Often charities use professional fundraisers in their efforts who keep the majority of what is collected. Evaluate your giving by researching charity status using free services such as CharityNavigator.org, CharityWatch.org, Give.org, and GuideStar.org.

Report scams and fraud to [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov) or your state consumer protection office.

**Elliott Greenblatt is a retired educator and coordinator of the AARP Vermont Fraud Watch Network. He hosts a CATV program, Mr. Scammer, distributed by GNAT-TV in Sunderland, Vt.**

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# CHURCH SERVICES

# obituaries

## Robert L. Townsend Jr., 1943-2020

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Robert L. Townsend Jr., 77, passed away Sunday, Nov. 22, 2020 at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, Mass., after a brief illness followed by Covid-19. He was born March 29, 1943 in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., the son of R. Lewis and Amelia (Sheldon) Townsend. He spent many years in the Boy Scouts, both attending and then working at Scout Camp. He was proud to have become an Eagle Scout in 1959 and also attended a National Scout Jamboree. He graduated from Arlington High School in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. in 1961, followed by receiving a B.A. from Union College in Schenectady, N.Y. in 1965.

On June 18, 1966 he married his high school sweetheart, Patricia Ann Stowe, in Poughquag, N.Y. They celebrated 54 wonderful years of marriage.

He served in the United States Air Force from 1967 to 1971, with a tour of duty in Ban Me Thout, Vietnam, and achieving the rank of Captain. Realizing he would like to work in forestry and natural resources, he applied to the University of Massachusetts and received his M.S. in forestry in 1974. During this time, he also worked with the University Year for Action in Massachusetts.

His first job in natural resources brought him to the University of Vermont Extension Service in 1974 as a community resource development specialist covering Windsor and Windham counties, and there he stayed until his retirement in 2000. He always enjoyed the people and variety of the job, taking the research of the university out to the towns. Over the years, he worked not only in natural resource management, but also rural leadership and local government training, public policy education, small business education, tourism, and recreation.

In 1982, he saw a need to bring information available at UVM to the growing tourism industry and started the first Vermont Travel Industry Conference in southern Vermont. The next year his committee oversaw a statewide conference which is now incorporated and still going on each year. In 1992 he was honored to be named the Vermont Travel Person of the Year, honoring his foresight in organizing the conference and his continuing work on the board and education committee. He continued on to Farm or Agri-Tourism and helped organize many farms to open their doors to visitors. He received many awards for his UVM Extension work, including from



Robert L. Townsend Jr., 1943-2020. PHOTO PROVIDED

other cooperating agencies, Soil Conservation and Natural Resources. He was also active with the Windsor County Agricultural Fair and started the Lumberjack Roundup contest for young people to compete.

After his retirement from UVM Ext. in 2000, he worked part-time for Huffer Forestry Associates and enjoyed this time spent with consulting foresters. He also planned and supervised the building of his dream retirement home where he was able to manage his own forestland. Building a sugarhouse was also in those plans and it became a Townsend Family sugaring operation with everyone helping and learning.

Most important always was his family. From camping trips, hunting, and cross country skiing to a mini-farm with animals, poultry, and making maple syrup, there were always activities to do with his young family and most involved the outdoors which he loved so much. Shortly before retirement, he found a camp on a lake to share with friends and family and it became a favorite of children and all the grandchildren.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by son Jamie of Springfield and his four sons James, Milo, Cabot, and Sparrow; and daughter Paula of Woodstock and her son Eli. He loved being a part of the grandchildren's lives and thoroughly enjoyed watching the ages and stages of each one. He made activities to do with them and always enjoyed their company. He is also survived by many wonderful cousins with whom he shared lots of genealogy research.

Arrangements are being made through the Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt. A memorial service and celebration of Bob's life will be held in the spring or summer when we can all get together. Memorial contributions may be made to the First Congregational Church, 77 Main St., Springfield, VT 05156.

### BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

#### Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St.

Please join us for our Advent season Sundays at 10 a.m. via Zoom. Sign up and receive the links through Facebook @ ImmanuelEpiscopalChurch. For more information, go to [www.immanuelepiscopal.org](http://www.immanuelepiscopal.org).

### CHESTER, VT.

#### St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 313 Main St.

Zoom services are Sundays at 10 a.m. Our service will be an enhanced Rite One Morning Prayer Service with music. For information, visit [www.stlukeseiscopalvt.org](http://www.stlukeseiscopalvt.org).

### LONDONDERRY, VT.

#### First Baptist Church, 62 Crescent St., S. Londonderry, Vt.

Worship services are now online-only and can be live streamed at [www.firstbaptistlondonderryvt.org/streaming-worship.html](http://www.firstbaptistlondonderryvt.org/streaming-worship.html). For more information, visit [www.firstbaptistlondonderryvt.org](http://www.firstbaptistlondonderryvt.org) or call 802-856-7266.

### LUDLOW, VT.

#### Tyson Community Church, Corner of Rt. 100 and Dublin Rd.

Service is at 10:30 a.m. on Zoom. For more information, go to Facebook @TysonCommunityChurch, call 802-522-8249, or email [cindysummer55@gmail.com](mailto:cindysummer55@gmail.com).

### SPRINGFIELD, VT.

#### First Congregational Church UCC, 77 Main St.

Sunday services are at 9:30 a.m. Live streaming is available on Facebook @FCCUCCSpringfield. For more information, call 802-885-5728, email [fccucc@vermontel.net](mailto:fccucc@vermontel.net), or go to [www.fccuccspfdvt.org](http://www.fccuccspfdvt.org).

### WALPOLE, N.H.

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

As the weather turns colder, worship services have returned to Zoom Sundays at 10 a.m. For more information, go to [www.stjohnswalpole.org](http://www.stjohnswalpole.org).

## Virginia R. Curley, 1938-2020

WALPOLE, N.H. – Virginia R. Curley from Walpole, N.H. passed away Nov. 22, 2020. She was born Nov. 8, 1938 in Holmdel, N.J., the daughter of Alice and Frank Curley and step-mother Helen.

She graduated from Freehold High School in New Jersey in 1957. She loved her agriculture course and events the best. Her last job in New Jersey was in the billing department for McGraw Hill Publishing Company. She moved to Alstead Center, N.H., January 1969.

Virginia married several times, but none of her marriages worked out. She went back to her maiden name and claimed her dad (farmer) as the only man who really loved her.

Ginny, as she was called, worked at many different jobs. Since she spent most of her younger years on her dad's small farm, that lifestyle was the best as he taught her all about farm life and was very active on all the farm equipment.

Ginny was a secretary at St. George Hotel in New York and at the college in Claremont, N.H. and other various office jobs. Her heart was still with farming. She drove trucks, tractors, and all farm equipment. In her younger days she had horses and Black Angus baby beef in the 4-H club. Her love for cattle never changed.

Her former husband had a sawmill where she enjoyed working hard logging, mill work, and did all the office duties. She raised six oxen during that time.

At the end of her working years, she worked for Home Health Care and was a special education aide for Fall Moun-



Virginia R. Curley, 1938-2020. PHOTO PROVIDED

tain School District. Her last job was at Cheshire Medical Center in environmental services, until leaving due to a heart condition at the age of 70 years old.

Ginny is survived by her two sons, Richard B. Crawford Jr. and his wife Shelly, owner and operator of Vermont Steel Craft, and Captain Lawrence Taylor Jr. and his wife Deborah of Walpole and North Dumplin Island, Long Island Sound.

She loved all animals and gentle people.

Virginia suffered from a family inherited heart condition.

She is predeceased by two sisters from New Jersey, Lois Keller and Marion Bazat, and an older brother Frank Curley Jr. from Honesdale, Pa. She is survived by her brother Robin and wife Diana of Maryland, Md., Rulief and wife Debra of Mt. Pleasant, Pa., and sister Sandra Griffin in Staten Island, N.Y. She loved each and every grandchild, niece, and nephew like they were all her very own.

There are no calling hours. A family gathering will take place at Alstead Center Cemetery.

## Bridget M. Ritchie, 1974-2020

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Bridget May Ritchie, 46, passed away peacefully at her home Nov. 13, 2020. She was born Aug. 21, 1974 in Rutland, Vt., daughter of Barbara and Robert Ritchie. She attended school in Bellows Falls and Springfield.

She enjoyed spending time with her family, her children, and especially her grandchildren. She was an amazing person with a huge heart and so much love for the ones she cared for. Her smile lit up every room she walked into.

Bridget is survived by three daughters Natausha Bourquin, Jasmin Clark, and Kiesha Ritchie, and one son Trevor Clark; grandchildren Jewels Bourquin, Xaidyn Robinson, and a granddaughter due in February; her three sisters Bonnie Lawrence, Becky Gibson, and



Bridget M. Ritchie, 1974-2020. PHOTO PROVIDED

Barbara Ritchie; three brothers Brian Ritchie, Brad Ritchie, and Robert Ritchie; her boyfriend Jon Fagans; and her mother Barbara Ritchie. She is predeceased by her father Robert Ritchie and grandson Blake Daxter.

## Emily N. Chambers, 1996-2020

CHESTER, Vt. – Emily N. Chambers, 24, of Chester, passed away unexpectedly the morning of Friday, Nov. 20, 2020 as the result of an accidental drug overdose. She was born Aug. 5, 1996 in Springfield, the daughter of Nathan D. Chambers and Jessica Holmes.

Emily attended Black River High School. Most recently, she was employed by Crows Bakery and Opera House Cafe in Proctorsville. Emily enjoyed art, music, cooking, fishing, and all things nature.

She will always be remembered for her free spirit, kind heart, willingness to always help anyone in need, love of life, and her beautiful smile. For a few months recently, she had been sober and seemed to be on the road to recovery. During this time, the family was fortunate to have spent some quality time with the real Emily – the person she was before addiction took her from us. Her family will be forever grateful for this time and will cherish these memories, and all of their memories, of her forever.

Emily is survived by her parents Nathan Chambers and Jessica Frasca; stepfather Paul Frasca; her sister Lily Nelson; stepbrothers Zachary and Colby Frasca; maternal great-grandmother Elsie Zucco of Canaan, Conn.; grandparents Bernard and Deb Kirchner of Ashley Falls, Mass.; paternal great-grandparents David and Victoria Creaser of Ludlow; grandmother Shelly Creaser Hobbs of Cavendish; paternal grandfather Rick Chambers of Clermont, Fla.; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

As her parents, we will miss her with every fiber of our beings; but also as her parents, we will no longer have to wit-



Emily N. Chambers, 1996-2020. PHOTO PROVIDED

ness her pain or worry about this day coming as we have for years because it's here, and it will leave an empty place in our hearts forever.

Our only solace is that she is now free from the struggles that haunted her, and she can now forever rest in peace. We loved Emily more than life itself, but that love could not protect her. If a parent's love could fix addiction, it would have been eradicated years ago. The grief of this loss is infinite to us. And now, so is she.

No family is immune to this disease of addiction, and it is merciless. It is up to us to open our minds and hearts to those who are still suffering from this disease that is killing our children and shattering families. It is not something to be ashamed of. Any family can fall victim to this. We hope that Emily's passing won't be in vain and that someone's life can be spared from this tragedy. If you or anyone you know suffers from this disease, please know you're not alone.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Davis Memorial Chapel of Springfield is assisting with arrangements.

## Michael E. Gintof Sr., 1933-2020

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Michael E. Gintof Sr., 87, lifelong resident of Springfield, passed away Nov. 26, 2020 in the comfort of his home after an eight-year battle with lung cancer. He was surrounded by his wife and children in his last days.

He was born Nov. 7, 1933, son of Felix and Emilia (Zurawowicz) Gintof who both predeceased him.

He married Arlene Johnson July 18, 1959. They were married 61 years.

He is survived by his wife; son Michael Gintof Jr. (Jeannie) of West Rutland, Vt.; daughter Michelle (Brian) Milano of Normandy, Tenn.; son Steven (Jodi) Gintof of Springfield, Vt.; Thomas (Danielle) Gintof of Meredith, N.H.; seven grandchildren; two step-grandchildren and four step-great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his brother Henry Gintof and sister Lorraine Wescott.

He graduated in 1951 from Springfield High School where he played on the basketball team.

He participated in the co-op course and worked at Parks and Woolson until 1962, with two years serving in the United States Army. He spent 14 months in Korea. He worked at Fellows Gear Shaper from 1962 until 1990. After retiring, he enjoyed spending time with



Michael E. Gintof Sr., 1933-2020. PHOTO PROVIDED

his wife, children, and grandchildren. He also enjoyed gardening, maple sugaring, and meeting friends at the diner for coffee, where he would bring his extra vegetables to share. He also found pleasure in having breakfast once a month with the Class of 1951.

He belonged to the Hitormis Club, where he was president for over 20 years. He also was a member of VFW Post 771.

The family would like to thank Dr. Konstantin Dragnev, the doctors and staff of Dartmouth Hitchcock Hospital, and Bayada Hospice for all of their care.

Funeral services will be held in the spring of 2021 and announced at that time.

Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt. is assisting with arrangements.

## Church Services

We are currently running Social Distancing Church Services on an alternating schedule, and each run typically once a month. Church Service listings are subject to space.

Online at: [www.VermontJournal.com](http://www.VermontJournal.com)

Click the "News" drop down on the green navigation bar, then choose "Obituaries & Services."

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## OBITUARY SUBMISSIONS

The staff at The Vermont Journal recently came to the difficult decision that as of December 1, 2020, we will be charging for our obituary submissions. In an endeavor to make the transition to a paid listing fair to our readership, our fees are as follows:

- A 200-word submission will be a base price of \$50 with a charge of \$0.20 per word after
- A black and white photo is an additional \$10 charge
- Check or credit card prepayment is mandatory, but please note that our credit card terminal charges a 3.5% fee for processing

Obituaries must be submitted to [editor@vermontjournal.com](mailto:editor@vermontjournal.com) by Monday 12 p.m. to be included in that week's Wednesday paper.

# outdoor news

## Archery and muzzleloader deer hunting season

REGION – Hunters still have several days of archery and muzzleloader deer hunting to enjoy in Vermont.

Archery deer hunting continues through Dec. 15, and

muzzleloader deer hunting will occur Dec. 5 to 13.

An archery deer license, in addition to a hunting license, is required to hunt during the archery season. An antlerless

deer or a legal buck – if you did not take one earlier – are allowed during this season.

A muzzleloader deer license, in addition to a hunting license, is required to hunt during the muzzleloader season. A legal buck may be taken – if you did not take one earlier – or an antlerless deer may be taken in a designated Wildlife Management Unit if you have a muzzleloader antlerless deer permit. A few of these permits are still available on Vermont Fish & Wildlife's website, www.vtfishandwildlife.com, for WMUs K and N in southwestern Vermont.

Vermont has an annual limit of four deer during its deer hunting seasons, including only one legal buck annually during those seasons.



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Springfield, VT  
www.drchristopherfauver.com

## Vail Resorts opens Okemo, Snow, Stowe in Vermont

LUDLOW, Vt. – A combination of superlative snow-making technology and a dedicated operations staff allowed for Vail Resorts' Vermont ski areas to open for the 2020/2021 ski and snowboard season. Stowe, Okemo, and Mount Snow opened Nov. 25 with exclusive early season access for Epic Pass holders through Dec. 7, 2020.

Vail Resorts is committed to keeping guests safe and providing them with great

skiing and riding more than ever this winter season. In addition to following all local regulations and complying with state guidance, some core ways the resorts are working to keep guests safe this winter include:

- All guests and staff are required to wear a face covering in all aspects of the operation, including while in lift lines, while riding lifts and gondolas, and in all lodges and facilities.
- Reservations are required for all guests – pass holders included. This will allow resorts

to manage access and allow for physical distancing.

All transactions will be cashless for the coming season. For the most seamless experience, book and pay online in advance.

All guests are expected to follow Vermont state guidelines.

Okemo opened for the season with top-to-bottom skiing and riding on nine trails serviced by two lifts. All operations are based in Okemo's Clock Tower base area. For more information, go to www.okemo.com.

## Fish & Wildlife mobile app

MONTPELIER, Vt. – The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department released a new mobile application to help the public recreate outdoors in a safe and socially distanced manner. The "Vermont Outdoors" app connects the public with department lands, fish and wildlife regulations, and up-to-date Covid-19 guidance.

"We've seen an increase in outdoor recreation across our 100 wildlife management areas and nearly 200 fishing access areas since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic," said Lands and Facilities Administrator

Mike Wichrowski. "This new app will encourage Vermonters to find new opportunities to hunt, fish, trap, or view wildlife on public lands and waters. The app will also provide access to fish and wildlife law digests, baitfish dealers, department news and current events, and the ability to report fish and wildlife violations."

This project was paid for with federal funds from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security stimulus to enhance outdoor recreational opportunities. Other CARES funded projects completed by the department included improvements to boat ramps and other

water access points, wildlife management area roads, parking areas, and informational signage.

The application can be downloaded at the Apple App Store or Google Play.

## The start of bird feeding season

MONTPELIER, Vt. – The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department recommends Vermonters put up bird feeders after Dec. 1 to avoid attracting bears.

Doug Morin, Vermont Fish & Wildlife's bird project leader, said, "This may be a particularly good winter for attracting winter birds arriving from Canada, including Evening Grosbeaks and Common Redpolls. Black oil sunflower is a good seed choice that will attract a variety of birds, and folks may want to try other seeds or suet to attract certain species. Thistle, for example, attracts many of the finches. Gardeners will find leaving late-blooming flowers uncut provides seeds which can also attract birds."

While watching your bird feeders, you can participate in one or more bird monitoring projects by looking up the Audubon Christmas Bird Count, the Great Backyard Bird Count, and Project Feeder Watch – all three collect important information to understand bird populations.

The Fish & Wildlife Department offers these tips for bird-friendly bird feeding:

- Keep cats inside. Domestic cats are the leading cause of bird death in North America.
- Place feeders closer than four feet or farther than 10 feet from a window to reduce bird collisions.
- Clean feeders regularly to eliminate harmful bacteria and viruses. Be sure to rinse and dry before refilling.

Feed birds only between Dec. 1 and April 1, but remove feeders if you see signs of bears. Most bears should be in dens during this time, but some delay entering their dens or re-emerge to feed if there is a period of warm weather.

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# LEGAL NOTICES

# classifieds

## AUCTION

N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. - Auction held Dec. 12, 2020 at 11 a.m. at 96 Route 106 N. Springfield. 05150. Call 802-683-7104. To be auctioned: Jay Huntley #51 & #98 Andy Aldrich # 92 & # 159 Brenda Kenyon # 151 Matt Reynolds # 177 Orion Pfenning # 197

## FOR SALE

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. - 2016 Subaru Forester for sale. STANDARD SHIFT. 85,000 miles, excellent condition, silver. Offers around \$11,000 considered. Call 802-376-8249 or email heclewoc@gmail.com.

## HELP WANTED

PERU, Vt. - J.J. Hapgood General Store & Eatery is Hiring! Seeking motivated & inspired candidates for Kitchen & Hospitality/FOH. Line Cooking or Wood Fired Cooking Experience Helpful for kitchen position. Food Service & Retail both helpful for FOH positions. Email Andry@jjhapgood.com or stop in 305 Main Street Peru. 802-824-4800.

## BUYING/SELLING

BUYING-SELLING Coins, Paper Money, Vintage Sports-Postcards, Comics. See our displays at Chester Stone House Antiques. Open 7 Days. 802-379-2353. House calls available.



**Green Mountain Unified School District**  
**Invitation to Bid**  
**For Snow Removal Services at**  
**Cavendish Town Elementary School**

**Bid Requirements:**  
 1. Bids must include per storm cost of plowing and sanding costs as well as seasonal contract cost; bid should also include cost to removal snow from around buildings.  
 2. Bidder must meet with building Principal to discuss the school's needs.  
 3. Bidder may also submit a separate bid for roof shoveling.  
 4. Bid should also include payment requirements.

**Bid Due Date:**  
 All submittals must be sealed and delivered no later than 3:00 PM on Thursday, December 10, 2020 for public opening at that time. All bids are to be submitted to the following address with the words "GMUSD Snow Removal" clearly stated on the envelope. All bids must be mailed or hand delivered in a sealed envelope. E-MAILS will be accepted; please send them to cheryl.hammond@trs.org.

**Send Bids to:**  
 Cheryl Hammond, Business Manager  
 Two Rivers Supervisory Union  
 609 VT Route 103 S., Ludlow, VT 05149  
 (802) 875-6433

**For Site Visits, please contact:**  
 Katherine Fogg, Principal  
 Cavendish Town Elementary School  
 573 Main Street, Proctorsville, VT 05153  
 (802) 875-7758

**Contract Award:**  
 The Green Mountain Unified School Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids which may be submitted. It also reserves the right to award a contract to the bidder who, in the opinion of the Green Mountain Unified School Board, will best meet the needs of the schools.

## SNOW PLOWING

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



## WOOD BOILERS

NEW HAMPSHIRE RESIDENTS save up to 30% of the system and installation cost on a Maxim wood pellet boiler. Contact New England Outdoor Furnaces at 603-863-8818. (TFN)

**The River Valley Technical Center**  
**Carpentry Program**

Is now accepting sealed bids for our 2020-2021 modular house.

The Carpentry Program is building a:  
 30 x 40 Ranch

Bids will be accepted until:  
 12:00 p.m. December 11, 2020

To download a bid packet, please go to [www.rvrtc.org](http://www.rvrtc.org)

For more information, please contact:  
 Ms. Erin Hunter, Carpentry Instructor  
 River Valley Technical Center  
 307 South Street  
 Springfield, VT 05156  
 802-885-8330  
 ehunter@rvtc.org

**Warning for Special Town Meeting**  
**Town of Westminster, Vermont**

January 5, 2021 by Australian Ballot  
 Vote to take place at the Westminster Town Hall on Route 5  
 From 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM

**Article I** Shall the voters of Westminster approve the withdrawal of the Town of Westminster from the Windham Northeast Union Elementary School District ?

**Article II** In the event Article I is approved, shall the voters of Westminster authorize and instruct the Westminster Selectboard to undertake all steps necessary to do the following:

- 1) Form a Westminster Town School District to be responsible for the operation of schools and educational programs for Westminster students;
- 2) Obtain the return to the Westminster Town School District of all school buildings and property owned by the Town School District prior to the forced merger;
- 3) Appoint five (5) town residents to an interim Town School District Board to effect the transition and return of the operation of schools and educational programs to the Town School District; and
- 4) Schedule a Town election at the next annual Town meeting of 2021 to elect five (5) town residents to the Town School District Board with staggered terms as existed prior to the forced merger.

Dated this 30th day of November 2020, Westminster, Vermont

SPRINGFIELD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT  
 SPECIAL MEETING  
 DECEMBER 8, 2020

**WARNING**

The legal voters of the Springfield Town School District, are hereby notified and warned to meet at Riverside Middle School, 13 Fairground Road, in the Town of Springfield, on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, between the hours of eight o'clock (8:00) in the morning (a.m.), at which time the polls will open, and seven o'clock (7:00) in the evening (p.m.), at which time the polls will close, to vote by Australian ballot upon the following Article of business:

**ARTICLE I**

Shall bonds or notes of the Springfield Town School District in an amount not to exceed Nine Million Dollars (\$9,000,000) be issued for the purpose of financing the cost of making energy efficiency improvements to the District's elementary, middle and high school buildings, the estimated cost of such improvements being Ten Million Four Hundred Four Thousand Three Hundred Forty-Six Dollars (\$10,404,346)?

**State funds may not be available at the time this project is otherwise eligible to receive state school construction aid. The District is responsible for all costs incurred in connection with any borrowing done in anticipation of the receipt of school construction aid.**

The legal voters of the Springfield Town School District are further warned and notified that informational meetings will be held for the purpose of explaining the subject proposed school building improvements and the financing thereof as follows:

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday, November 17, 2020	6:00 p.m.	60 Park Street, Auditorium <a href="https://youtu.be/T1DZwAtBmtM">https://youtu.be/T1DZwAtBmtM</a>
Thursday, December 3, 2020	7:00 p.m.	60 Park Street, Auditorium <a href="https://meet.google.com/mgs-ztbc-gup">https://meet.google.com/mgs-ztbc-gup</a>

The legal voters of the Springfield Town School District are further notified that voter qualification, registration and absentee voting relative to said special meeting shall be as provided in Section 553 of Title 16, and Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

Adopted and approved at a meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Springfield Town School District held on November 2, 2020. Received for record and recorded in the records of the Springfield Town School District on November 4, 2020.

*[Signatures]*  
 School Board Director, Chair  
 School Board Director, Vice-Chair  
 School Board Director  
 School Board Director  
 School Board Director  
 District Clerk

*yellow page* **BUSINESS DIRECTORY**

**\$125 for 13 Weeks • \$200 for 26 Weeks • \$350 for 52 Weeks**  
 Prices are based on a 20 word listing. An additional 25 cents for each word thereafter.

**art crafts gifts**

**GALLERY AT THE VAULT**  
 Vermont State Craft Center  
 68 Main St., Springfield, VT  
**Open Wed. & Sat. 11-5, Fri. 11-7**

Book your own **Holiday Open House** for up to 5 people. Call to sign up for an hour on Sundays Nov. 15, 22, 29, Dec. 6 or 13. Noon-4 p.m.

New Open Wall Show: **People, Places & Things**

**Winter Landscape in Watercolor** Class with Rob O'Brien 1/16/21 Register. (in person class at UU Meetinghouse)

Face Masks required. Curbside available by request.  
[www.galleryvault.org](http://www.galleryvault.org) // [galleryvault@vermontel.net](mailto:galleryvault@vermontel.net)  
 802-885-7111  
 (02/09/21 - 13)

**auto**

**CAVENDISH AUTO WORKS**  
 Need car repair done. We are just a call away.  
 Open Monday-Friday 8-5  
 Call us at 802-554-0156 Cavendish, VT  
 (01/12/21 - 13)

**bakery**

**CROWS BAKERY & OPERA HOUSE CAFE**  
 Celebrating 22 years in business with yummy Pastries, Cakes, Pies, Breads, Cookies. Full Breakfast & Lunch. 73 Depot St. Proctorsville 802-226-7007. [crowsbakeryandcafe.com](http://crowsbakeryandcafe.com). Like us on Facebook.  
 (06/01/21 - TFN - 26)

**builders/contractors**

**PETER JORDAN CONSTRUCTION**  
 Over 25 years of experience in all phases of construction. Framing, finish carpentry, custom showers and tile work, hardwood flooring, decks, roofing and siding. Fully insured and registered with the State of Vermont. Lead Paint Certified. Located in Proctorsville. 802-226-8125.  
 (12/08/20 - TFN - 13)

**HAMMER FOR HIRE LLC**  
 802-376-3275 ~ "Not just for bangin' nails."  
 We offer a variety of services, ranging from handyman projects, through small restorations to full blown renovations. Our clients expect a great experience from start to finish. Our professionalism matched with proficiency, customer care, and quality hit that mark. We are fully insured and ready for your next project, big or small.  
 Like us on FACEBOOK: Hammer for Hire LLC @nedmortensen2008  
 (06/15/21 - 52)

**chiropractor**

**FOUR SEASONS CHIROPRACTIC, PC**  
 Dr. Denise Natale 58 Parker Avenue, Proctorsville, VT 05153, 802-226-7977 Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10AM-6PM  
 (08/17/21 - TFN - 52)

**cleanouts**

**A BARE CLEANING**  
 Basements, attics, houses, barns. Household items and junk removed. Free estimates, insured. Call Reg at 802-376-4159.  
 (12/08/20 - 13)

**masonry**

**MOORE MASONRY**  
 Fireplaces, chimneys and liners, chimney sweeps, patios, walls, steps, restoration and repairs. Fully insured, free estimates. Contact Gary Moore at 802-824-5710 [mooremasonry802@gmail.com](mailto:mooremasonry802@gmail.com).  
 (09/07/21 - 52)

**DRC STONE DESIGN**  
 Specializing in all Stone Masonry Applications including veneer, walls, patios, walkways. Fully insured. Free estimates. 32 years experience. Contact Dan Field at 802-384-0122 or [stoneart49@gmail.com](mailto:stoneart49@gmail.com) or visit [drcstonedesign.com](http://drcstonedesign.com).  
 (12/08/20 - 13)

**old tools wanted**

**CASH PAID FOR OLD TOOLS**  
 Planes, axes, chisels, Stanley tools, tool chests. Call 802-579-5891.  
 (12/15/20 - 13)

**property management**

**JB PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**  
 Snow Plowing and Sanding, Property Management with fuel check options, and Lawn Care services. Pricing by occurrences or seasonal contracts.  
 Contact us at 802-591-1673; [jbpropertymgmtvt@gmail.com](mailto:jbpropertymgmtvt@gmail.com). Find us on facebook at Jbpropertymanagement.  
 (06/01/21 - 26)

# calendar

# REAL ESTATE/AUTO/HELP WANTED

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Locally Owned Tire Store

Mon - Fri from 8 am - 5 pm  
Now Open Saturdays thru Jan. 16  
Rt. 5 North, Bellows Falls, VT - 802-463-3320

**DEC. 5 - CHESTER, Vt.** - Chester Helping Hands will host a special dinner for Chester seniors the morning of Saturday, Dec. 5. The menu will be a ham dinner and dessert. They need a head count ASAP as

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

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**802-674-5600**  
**NEW TIRES TOO!!**

there are 150 dinners. Please call the Motel in the Meadow at 802-875-2626 or Town Hall at 802-875-2173.

**DEC. 8 - CHESTER, Vt.** - The Southern Vermont Astronomy Group will host a Zoom guided tour

of the Williams College planetarium Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. The tour will feature an astronomy lecture like one given during an actual tour of the facility. There will be time for questions and answers after. Details for the Zoom link can be found at the SoVerA

website at [www.sovera.org/events](http://www.sovera.org/events).

**DEC. 12 - WHITE RIVER JCT, Vt.** - Northern Stage has partnered with Vermont Public Radio to present a free one-time-only broadcast of "It's a Wonderful Life: A Radio Play" Saturday, Dec. 12 at 3 p.m. Also available to stream on demand from Dec. 8-Jan. 3 as part of Northern Stage's 2020-21 season. For tickets and information, call 802-296-7000 or visit [www.northernstage.org](http://www.northernstage.org).

**WALPOLE, N.H.** - The First Congregational Church of Walpole will be having a cookie and candy sale at the church on the Common Saturday, Dec. 12, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Come get your holiday sweets. Masks and social distancing required.

**DEC. 12-13 - LUDLOW, Vt.** - Ludlow Fire Department will host a Stuff the Fire Truck Food Drive at Shaw's Supermarket the weekend of Dec. 12-13, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., to benefit the Black River Good Neighbors Food Shelf.

**TUESDAYS - BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** - Come check out TOPS - Take Off Pounds Sensibly. The first visit is free. All are welcome; youth must be at least 9 to attend and have parental permission. Meetings are every Tuesday at St. Charles Education Center located at 39 Green St. in Bellows Falls. Weigh-ins start at 6 p.m. Handicap accessible.

**WEDNESDAYS - BRATTLEBORO, Vt.** - Every Wednesday at 10 a.m., Taking Steps Brattleboro is offering Advanced Care Planning informational meetings via Zoom. To receive the Zoom invitation, call Dan Freeman at 802-257-0775 ext. 101 or email [dan.freeman@brattleborohospice.org](mailto:dan.freeman@brattleborohospice.org).

**DAILY - REGION** - If you want to drink that's your business, but if you want to stop, that's ours. Contact Alcoholics Anonymous at [www.aavt.org](http://www.aavt.org) or call your local hotline at 802-885-8281 and join a meeting.

### HELP WANTED

Burtco, Inc. has an immediate opening for a full-time Clerical/Receptionist/Customer Service Position. Must be able to work independently and multitask. Exceptional customer service skills along with computer experience required. Resume with two letters of recommendations accepted IN PERSON ONLY, Monday - Friday, from 7:30 am - 5:00 pm. 185 Route 123, Westminster Sta., VT 05159 802-722-3358

### Walpole Valley Tire

Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 - 5:00 • Saturday 8:00 - Noon  
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*Susan J. Colby Real Estate*  
742 Valley Road | Walpole, NH 03608  
603-756-2921 | [colbyrealestate@myfairpoint.net](mailto:colbyrealestate@myfairpoint.net)

**PAYING RENT, WHY?** Take a look at this sweet, affordable, well built cape. Easy to maintain with vinyl siding, replacement windows, slate roof and paved driveway. A small home, with small yard, small utility bills, taxes and price! MLS #4835243. \$89,900 Call Sue for more info.

**TURN-KEY** ranch awaits a buyer seeking a one level, smaller country home with privacy. Cozy living room and 3 bedrooms and polished hardwood floors. Finished basement with laundry, a shed, gazebo and a hot tub. New septic system and roof. Located just outside the village of Saxtons River. Don't miss this one. MLS#4836523 \$175,000.

### ANSWERS TO TAKE A BREAK!

— King Crossword —  
Answers  
Solution time: 21 mins.

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

— Weekly SUDOKU —  
Answer

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

## P&M Auto Sales

Quality Used Cars and Trucks

Ask about our **Guaranteed Credit Approval**  
Bankruptcy • Bad Credit First Time • Divorce

### Specials of the Week

<p><b>2015 Volkswagen Jetta</b> 4 Cylinder Auto</p>	<p><b>2014 Mazda 6</b> 4 Cylinder 4 Door Auto Sun Roof</p>
<p><b>2015 Ford Fusion</b> 4 Cylinder 4 Door Auto Leather Sun Roof</p>	<p><b>2011 Honda CRV</b> AWD 4 Cylinder Auto Air</p>
<p><b>2015 Nissan Rogue</b> AWD 4 Cylinder Auto Loaded</p>	<p><b>2013 Volkswagen Routan SE</b> Auto Leather 7 Passenger</p>

**\$20 Oil Change up to 5-quarts**  
Doesn't Include Synthetic Oil

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

## Split the Ticket Fund

**REGION** - Many Vermonters in need will receive a surprise gift of warmth this winter thanks to the Split the Ticket Fund. While thousands of Vermont families receive fuel assistance through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, there are many Vermonters that don't qualify but still need help. These families can receive donations of heating oil, propane, or kerosene from the Split the Ticket Fund, a Vermont based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

This innovative program matches cash donations with fuel donations from Vermont providers. The delivery ticket is split 50/50 - every \$1 donated buys \$2 worth of fuel. Vermont's heating fuel and service providers are mostly small, family-owned businesses. This program gives them, as well as local businesses, organizations, and individuals, the opportunity to provide a gift of warmth to someone in their community. The fund has delivered more than 100,000 gallons of free heating fuel to our neighbors in need.

Congressman Peter Welch, who has personally delivered nearly 1,000 of these gallons over the past decade, praised the Split the Ticket program. "It is good to know that Vermonters look out for each other during our challenging winters, especially this year. I wish I could hop in the truck to lend a hand and look forward to doing so in the future."

Those receiving a gift of warmth are nominated by someone in the community. If there is someone you think is deserving this winter, please send an email to [split@vermontfuel.com](mailto:split@vermontfuel.com). This year the need is not only for fuel but to repair or replace fuel tanks in order to comply with Vermont's AST regulations. The Split Fund will provide the same 50% match with heating service providers that donate labor and materials.

Go to [www.vermontfuel.com/split](http://www.vermontfuel.com/split) for more information.

**Professional Friendly Service**  
13 Clinton Street • Springfield, VT 05156  
802-885-2500 • [www.musevermont.com](http://www.musevermont.com)

**Muse & Associates REAL ESTATE**

Lori Muse, Broker/Owner  
Carol Cole, REALTOR

**Contemporary ranch style home located high above the town.** This three bedroom home offers lots of desirable features including an open concept living/dining/kitchen area with high ceilings and walls of windows/sliders (to the wrap around deck) taking in the local countryside and views. The main floor offers a master bedroom with bath and walk-in closet, an office/bedroom and bath. The daylight, walk out basement offers an office, second living area, bedroom, den, bath/laundry and utility room. Front porch, detached two car garage and shed. Situated on 4+/- mostly open acres of meadows with garden spaces. Added bonuses include Solar power and paved driveway. \$269,900

**Homes like these are a rare find** with big, spacious rooms, high ceilings and lots of details. The first floor of this home offers formal dining room, formal and informal living room (with woodstove) newer kitchen with walk-in pantry, laundry room, master suite with full bathroom, a large front/center hall. Upstairs offers a second master bedroom with bath, sitting room, additional bedrooms, bath and in-law kitchen for configuration as one pleases. Outside offers wrap around porches, attached garage, deck area and a large Barn. The grounds consisting of 1+/- acres is a delightful walk including gardens, fire pit, former water feature. Well cared for and worth a look! \$349,900

**Summer Street offers homes of great architectural style** and this home is no exception with its federal hipped roof and rich details. A good sized home with 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, formal dining, a good sized living room, spacious eat in kitchen, walk-out basement with high ceilings and a walk-up attic. Back yard for personal enjoyment, side walks for a pleasant stroll up and down the neighborhood. \$119,900

**Rural Living with all the extras.** This three bedroom contemporary offers two floors of living space with walk-in first floor entry with 2+ car garage, mudroom, family room with woodstove, den and 3/4 bath. The upgraded main floor offers a bright, functional kitchen with island and wine fridge, open concept to the dining/living area, master bedroom with walk in closet and bath, office, two more bedrooms and a laundry/bath. Outside offers a new deck, patio, screened porch with hottub, 4+/- acres with woods, garden space, mini apple grove and a shed for storage. \$329,000

**Barrett & Valley Associates Inc.**  
"Professional Real Estate Services"  
[www.barrettandvalley.com](http://www.barrettandvalley.com)  
39 Pleasant Street, Grafton

<p><b>Immaculate Custom Ranch</b> On 5.3+/- Acres, Close To Ski Mountains 3 Bedrooms, 3 Baths Chester, \$430,000</p>	<p><b>Unique &amp; Immaculate Home!</b> Getaway On 5+/- Level Acres! 2 Bedrooms, 2 Baths Grafton, \$339,000</p>	<p><b>Turn Key Chalet on 20.5+/- Acres</b> 3 Bay Garage w/Workbench! 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths Chester, \$295,000</p>
<p><b>Improved Split Level Office Building/</b> Apartment Set On 2.09+/- Acres Rockingham, \$229,000</p>	<p><b>Renovated Ranch Close To</b> Skiing &amp; 4 Season Recreation! 3 Bedrooms, 1 Bath, 4+/- Acres Townshend, \$179,000</p>	<p><b>Chalet Camp On 5.6+/- Acres</b> Open Concept Living w/Balcony 4 Bedroom, 1 Bath Reading, \$89,000</p>
<p><b>1.7+/- Surveyed Acre Lot</b> Access To Town Water &amp; Sewer Close To Village Chester, \$55,000</p>	<p><b>15+/- Acres, 2 Lots</b> River Lot Great For Recreation Other Lot Has Septic Design Grafton, \$44,000</p>	<p><b>1.05 +/- Acre Level Building Lot</b> Easy Drive To MT Snow &amp; Stratton Jamaica, \$38,500</p>

**GRAFTON** 802-843-2390 **CHESTER** 802-875-2323 **SPRINGFIELD** 802-885-8282 **NEWFANE** 802-365-4311

# holiday happenings

## Living Nativity at Chester Baptist Church

CHESTER, Vt. – Enjoy a living nativity scene this Christmas season, including children in costume and a few live animals!

Gathering to watch is prohibited because of Covid-19 safety restrictions, but you are encouraged to view the nativity scene and listen to carol music as you walk or drive



See the living Nativity scene in Chester. PHOTO PROVIDED

In lieu of what has traditionally been a narrated short play, a printed handout of the Christmas story will be available for taking.

The nativity scene will be occurring Saturday, Dec. 5, from 2-2:30 p.m., in front of Chester Baptist Church, 162 Main Street in downtown Chester.

## Yes, there will be Christmas in Grafton

GRAFTON, Vt. – The Covid-19 pandemic has caused many changes in our lives, but the women and men of the Grafton Fire and Rescue Auxiliary continue to be constant in their support of local first responders and the community, according to Auxiliary President Amber Stevens. She further stated, “You can help in this effort and bring some normalcy to your home as we enter the holiday season by visiting Grafton Village and purchasing a Christmas tree at the annual Christmas in Grafton Festival.”

As part of the festival, the Auxiliary will be selling fresh cut Vermont trees near the Phelps Barn at the Grafton Inn Dec. 5 and 6, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., both days. Later, any remaining trees will be available at the Grafton Village Garage. There will be trees of various types ranging from 5 to 10 feet in height and local delivery can be arranged.

Even though the Christmas

in Grafton event will be scaled back this year, it is rumored that Santa may be passing through to check out the decorations around the village on his way to the North Pole. Details are limited at this time, but Grafton

Firefighters have been asked to be ready with a fire engine to escort Santa around the village. As more information becomes available, it will be posted on the Grafton Fire and Rescue page on Facebook.

## Chester Christmas Market will be outside

CHESTER, Vt. – St. Luke’s Christmas Market: Culinary Classics & Crafts To Go will now be held on the lawn at 313 Main Street in Chester, Saturday, Dec. 5, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., with a special time for advanced order pick-up from 9:30-10 a.m.

Increased restrictions because of the coronavirus required thinking outside the box and moving the market outside the church. One-way traffic will make shopping for food and

holiday decorations easy and fast. Required social distancing outside and masks will make browsing in-person safe.

Although many changes were forced by the restrictions, market features will include an astounding variety of frozen homemade soups, entrees, jams and preserves, edible and play treats for pets, and evergreen sprays to decorate doors or one’s car grill.

Advance ordering is strongly encouraged, and a partial list

of available items is listed on [www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org](http://www.stlukesepiscopalvt.org). Please contact Lillian Willis at 802-875-1340 or [lbwillisct@comcast.net](mailto:lbwillisct@comcast.net) or Eileen Widger at 802-875-4604 or [twidger@sbglobal.net](mailto:twidger@sbglobal.net) to place an order and bring some delicious delights home for the holidays.

## SAPCC sells fun gift boxes for kids this season

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Santa might not be visiting with children much this year, but each purchase of a Holiday Gift Box from Springfield Area Parent Child Center comes with a golden ticket to attend a drive-through Santa visit Dec. 12 outside of their center in North Springfield, Vt. Other items in the box include a large paint your own cookie fresh from Debbie’s Sweet Creations, a picture frame ornament craft, several games and activities, and generous discounts to the Edgar May Health & Recreation Center, Billings Farm & Museum, Endless Creations Pottery Studio, and Springfield Cinemas 3. There is also popcorn and hot chocolate included to enjoy while watching their “Twas the Night” video online, which includes performers from Dreamz in Motion Dance &

Performance Center. Gift boxes can be ordered online now at [www.sapcc-vt.org](http://www.sapcc-vt.org) or by calling 802-886-5242. Boxes will be on sale through Dec. 12 and can be picked up at SAPCC during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

This annual fundraising event was created by Carrie Jewell, a long-time supporter of SAPCC. The event is sponsored by Mascoma Bank, Tortola Headwinds Inc., Willow Farm, Indelible Inc., VTel, All Seasons Construction, and Nature Springs Water. All proceeds from this event are to benefit Springfield Area Parent Child Center, a nonprofit organization that provides many supportive programs and services to over 3,000 children, parents, families, and caregivers in the greater Springfield area every year.

*This Holiday Season will surely be a challenge. With fewer events and smaller gatherings, The Rock and Hammer will be doing things differently this year. We will be offering our Annual Holiday discount for you to use at your convenience between November 28th and December 20th. Add your name to our mailing list and receive 20% off your purchase.*

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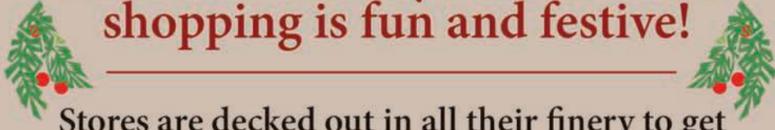
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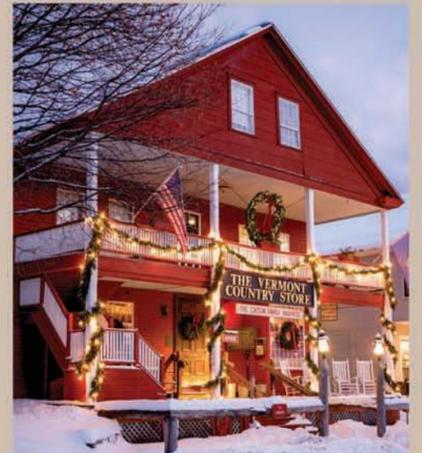
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