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Chester fiscal responsibility delivers a \$335k surplus

BY SHARON HUNTLEY
The Vermont Journal

CHESTER, Vt. – During the Jan. 20 Selectboard meeting, Town Manager Julie Hance shared Chester’s final year-end budget review, the highlight of which was a surplus of \$335,295.91 along with a budget that will see a decrease of \$687.82 over last year and a total town budget of \$3,342,887.01 for Chester voters to approve in March.

According to Hance, the surplus was the result of extra revenue received through Covid-19 relief funds, and was largely due in part to department heads watching expenses and purchasing only what absolutely necessary. Board Chair Arne Jonynas also commended the reorganization of the town office, which redefined responsibilities among current town office personnel when Hance took over the town manager position, and ultimately eliminated a staff position.

Hance acknowledged this

would be a one-time savings and would not be sustainable moving forward since several items that department heads delayed will need to be purchased in future.

Board members praised Hance for her efforts in addressing budget concerns early during an uncertain year that dealt with a pandemic that might have impacted tax collection and other economic unknowns.

With the budget itself already coming in under last year’s budget, Hance presented several options for the board to consider for how to spend the surplus.

Hance recommended and the board unanimously agreed on “option 1,” which included paying \$200,000 for the Depot Street sidewalk project, purchasing the police cruiser outright for \$41,000, financing the dump truck as planned through the Capital Plan, transferring \$20,000 to the Reserve Fund, and increasing the fund balance by \$72,000. The remaining \$2,295.91 would be used to off-



Chester delivers a \$335k surplus in their budget.
PHOTO PROVIDED BY WWW.CHESTERTV.GOV

set any tax increase.

This surplus does not include or impact the current general fund balance of \$263,000, which will remain intact.

During special meeting via Zoom Monday, Jan. 25, the Selectboard warned the upcoming articles that would be presented to the voters for approval following the informational town

meeting. with Leigh Dakin saying that the topic deserved “a robust discussion.”

Hance confirmed that the town could always call for a special town meeting on the topic later in the year, although the article would need to be voted on by Australian ballot.

The board then approved the town warning, which included approving a \$250,000 bond, minus grants received for paving; approving budget of 33,342,887.01; expending from the Capital Reserve Fund \$887,249.36, which includes the additional surplus funds from this year spending – \$18,750 for Fire Department air packs, \$10,000 for signage, \$200,000 for Depot Street sidewalk, \$41,000 for police cruiser, \$146,610.80 to pay previously approved equipment loans, and \$470,888.56 transfer to Bond Plan; approving \$130,000 purchase of dump truck to be financed over five years; approving tax exemption for the Chester Rod and Gun Club, Green Mountain Softball, and

the Olive Branch Lodge; and approving funds to Meals on Wheels of Greater Springfield, Chester fireworks, Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of Vermont and New Hampshire, Health Care and Rehabilitation Services, Southeastern Vermont Community Action, Women’s Freedom Center, Senior Solutions, The Current transportation, Windsor County Mentors, Green Mountain RSVP and Volunteer Center of Windsor, Community Cares Network of Chester and Andover, Chester-Andover Family Center, and Neighborhood Connections.

The town informational meeting will be held Monday, March 1, 2021 at 6 p.m. via Zoom for virtual meeting to discuss the budget and all articles with the vote happening by Australian ballot the following day Tuesday, March 2, from 9 a.m.-7 p.m., at the Chester Town Hall.

The next Chester Selectboard meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 3 at 6 p.m. via Zoom.

GMUSD and LMHUUSD budgets in line with last year despite TRSU jump

BY SHARON HUNTLEY
The Vermont Journal

CHESTER, Vt. – The Green Mountain Unified School District approved the proposed budget of \$14,241,241, which represented a 0.94% increase, less than 1% from the previous year’s budget. The increase was primarily due to an increase in the assessment from the Two Rivers Supervisor Union budget of nearly \$150,000. These were somewhat offset by changes to the organizational structure of the two elementary schools, sharing Principal Katharine Fogg, as well as savings from the administrative structure of Green Mountain Union High School, which elevated Assistant Principal Mike Ripley to interim principal without replacing his previous position.

The Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District is proposing a budget of \$7,235,089 that represents an almost 1% decrease over last year’s budget. Although impacted by an increase of nearly \$130,000 in the TRSU assessment, a decrease in tuition costs for middle and high school impacted their final number.

The TRSU budget was impacted by skyrocketing special education costs, upwards of nearly \$800,000, which resulted in part in their budget increasing by over 14%, although rising benefit costs were also a factor. The TRSU divides its costs between the two districts with approximately 65% coming from GMUSD and 35% coming from LMHUUSD.

TRSU Superintendent Lauren Fierman said that there is

no plan that will stop special education costs from rising but pointed to two current programs through the TRSU, one for autism and the other for social and emotional issues, that saved the district from spending an additional \$1 million dollars. She said that she and TRSU Director of Student Services Mary Barton were looking at additional programs, specifically a life skills program, which would allow some students back into the district, saving transportation and additional tuition costs.

Budgets for GMUSD and LMHUUSD will be voted on by Australian ballot following their respective town meetings and in their local polling places, Tuesday, March 2.

T&G board welcomes public feedback on school development and purpose

REGION – “What is the purpose of school in today’s world?” The public response to that fundamental question forms the centerpiece of a brief two-question survey that the Taconic & Green Regional School District Board will be conducting now through Feb. 15, 2021. In addition to the feedback on the purpose of school, the questionnaire also asks for input on what important skills, values, and behaviors should be developed during the years with T&G.

To maximize safety and outreach during the pandemic, the questionnaire will be distributed electronically by email to a wide range of local groups and organizations, including parents, former students, and local Selectboard members. An

initial electronic mailing to parents of current T&G students, for example, will be sent the first week of the survey period.

The survey will be made available on social media and at the website of the Bennington-Rutland Supervisory Union, www.BRSU.org. The T&G Board will also work with a wide range of local community organizations to put the topic of “the purpose of schools” on agendas for discussion during regularly scheduled meetings.

“We know that board decisions are only as good as the information that we use to make them,” the T&G Public Engagement Committee said in a statement. “We know that we are limited by our experiences and privileges, and that in order to make the best decisions for all our kids, we need to be informed by all of our commu-

nity.”

The results of the survey will be shared with the public and play a major role in establishing T&G educational goals that will be the centerpiece of an Ends Policy that serves as the standard for future school operations. Anyone without access to the internet can mail the response to the question, “What is the purpose of school in today’s world?” directly to the T&G Board at 6378 VT Route 7A, Sunderland, VT 05250.

T&G operates K-8 public education at five local schools: Currier Elementary, The Dorset School, Sunderland Elementary, Flood Brook School, and Manchester Elementary Middle School. The nine communities served by the T&G are Danby, Dorset, Landgrove, Londonderry, Manchester, Mount Tabor, Peru, Sunderland, and Weston.

Community process to set direction for the future of Londonderry

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – On Feb. 3, all members of the Londonderry community are invited to kick off One Londonderry: a community process to engage all residents in setting direction for a vibrant, prosperous, and dynamic future. This process is a practical, pragmatic, and facilitated way for residents to actively participate in reviewing challenges and opportunities facing the community, identify top priorities for action, and develop

concrete action plans. This will also be an opportunity to bring both technical and financial resources to Londonderry to move priorities forward.

This first step in the One Londonderry process will be a virtual community forum to discuss assets, challenges, and opportunities for action within four focus topics. Everyone is invited to join in Feb. 3 to share ideas in forums on four different topics, chosen by a steering committee representing people

from various occupations and parts of town. Forum topics will include Housing & Transportation; Youth, Families & Childcare; Recreation, Health & Wellness; and Economic Development, Jobs & Village Centers. Participants can join on Zoom or by phone. Public Wi-Fi is available in a safe, socially distanced setup at the Town Office for those that need it.

In addition to online forums, ideas will be collected using an online survey, www.bit.ly/LondonderrySurvey, and paper surveys are available at the South Londonderry Free Library, the Londonderry Town Office, and at Mike and Tammy’s Main Street Deli.

Step 2 of One Londonderry will be a community meeting Feb. 25 where all residents will be invited to champion action ideas, set priorities, and have the option to sign up for task forces to take on each chosen priority initiative. VCRD will return in March 16 for Step 3,

One Londonderry Resource Day to help support the work of the new task forces with technical and financial resources as they create action plans to move their priorities forward.

Londonderry Selectboard Chair Georgianne Mora invites all to participate, saying, “I’m really hopeful about the One Londonderry community process. This is an opportunity to get community members from all corners of the town to engage in envisioning a future

that fulfills the needs and desires of everyone. VCRD seems to have the experience and tools to make true inclusiveness a reality.”

The process is produced by VCRD, who was invited to the community by the town of Londonderry Selectboard. VCRD is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to the advancement of Vermont communities. In the past 20

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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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Neighborhood Connections offers support with vaccine registration

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Working with Springfield Medical Systems and the Mountain Valley Health Council, Neighborhood Connections is offering assistance to eligible citizens in our service area to register for Covid-19 vaccinations. A dedicated page on the agency’s website, www.neighborhoodconnectionsvt.org, not only connects to the portal through which you register for a patient ID number, which is required before vaccination, but also includes the most up-to-date information about who is eligible now, who is next in line, and vaccination sites. There is also important

information about testing and a link to testing registration. Should anyone have connectivity issues, lack of a computer, or need assistance in navigating the registration process, Neighborhood Connections volunteers have been mobilized to help. Volunteer drivers are also on hand to

take people with no transportation to vaccination sites. Neighborhood Connections is a nonprofit health and social services agency located in Londonderry’s Mountain Marketplace. Call 802-824-4343 with any questions.

night in with hot chocolate kits and boozy collabs from local businesses like Mad River Taste Place and Michael’s on the Hill. Lake Champlain Chocolates is offering hot chocolate bombs to use at home and as well as serving limited edition Raspberry Hot Chocolate and Dark Hot Chocolate in their three cafes.

Sip your way through Hot Chocolate Week

REGION – Vermont Fresh Network & DigInVT is excited to invite Vermont dairy and chocolate enthusiasts to sweet and special events throughout the state in celebration of the inaugural Vermont Hot Chocolate Week, Feb. 1-7, 2021. Over 40 local farms, restaurants, cafes, and other Vermont specialty food businesses are showcasing their favorite hot chocolate flavors with menu specials, hot chocolate kits, recipes, farm stories, and more.

“From Vermont’s cows and dairy farmers, to our local chocolate makers, chefs, and distillers, the Green Mountain State has everything you need to celebrate winter in Vermont in a very sweet way,” said Tara Pereira, executive director of Vermont Fresh Network.

Throughout this week, Vermonters are invited to sample and celebrate. Visit cafes and restaurants offering special drinks all week long, including King Arthur Baking cafe, The Lodge at Spruce Peak, Mad River Distillers, Morse Block Deli, The Scoop & Archie’s Grill, The Skinny Pancake, Sweetwaters American Bistro, Rabble Rouser Chocolate & Craft Co., Red Hen Baking Co., and many others around the state. Celebrate at home! Plan a

Enjoy a snowy outdoor adventure with sweet sips at Sandiwood Farm in Wolcott and Frog Hollow Farm in Hubbardton.

Enter the Hot Chocolate Week photo contest! Snap the best photo of your hot chocolate and post it to Instagram with the hashtag **#vthotchocolate** to enter DigInVT’s photo contest. The prize-winning photos will be chosen by a panel of hot chocolate experts.

Follow along with Vermont dairy farms as they are highlighted during the week, including Billings Farm, Monument Farms, Liberty Hill Farm, Cedar Mountain Farm, Robie Farm, Stony Pond Farm, and Shelburne Farms.

Vermont Hot Chocolate Week is funded through a 2020 Vermont Breakfast on the Farm grant awarded to Vermont Fresh Network to promote Vermont dairy and engage local businesses and the public.

For a complete list of participating businesses and activities during Vermont Hot Chocolate Week, visit www.DigInVT.com.

LVRS commences annual raffle fundraiser

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – In prior years, members of the community have joined us in stuffing more than 6,000 envelopes that we mail for our fundraiser after an annual Sunday luncheon. LVRS wants to extend a sincere “thank you” for that help and

effort. This year, because of the Covid-19 pandemic, we will be unable to host our in-person envelope stuffing party but look forward to resuming that tradition in 2022.

Those on our mailing list will be receiving raffle tickets in the

mail in early February. Your generous support in purchasing raffle tickets goes toward funding LVRS’s emergency medical operations, as we are still the only all-volunteer rescue squad in the state of Vermont that doesn’t charge for its services.

If you are new to the community and would like to support our squad, please go to www.londonderryrescuevt.org, and click on the “Donate” section to either purchase raffle tickets or make a donation. Thank you for your support!

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LONDONDERRY

From Page 1A

years, they have worked with over 70 communities throughout Vermont to bring residents together through their facilitated and structured process to share ideas and move toward common solutions. VCRD will bring with them a visiting team of more than 20 Vermont state, federal, business, nonprofit, and philanthropic leaders to listen to and reflect on the challenges and opportunities for action that residents identify.

VCRD Community and Policy Manager Jenna Koloski says, “VCRD is excited about working with Londonderry residents to set and advance priorities for the future. We believe strongly in the power of local leadership and in engaging the full voice of the community in setting direction forward. Even in a time when people can’t come together in the same room, there is still great opportunity to connect with our friends and neighbors, choose what is most important, and work towards a brighter future for the community. Coming together, even virtually, is more important than ever.”

One Londonderry Community Visit is funded with support from the Vermont Community Foundation and the Northern Borders Regional Commission. All members of the community are invited to participate.

For more information, visit www.bit.ly/OneLondonderry, contact VCRD at 802-225-6091 or jenna@vtrural.org, or visit the event Facebook page at www.facebook.com/events/1331207363901346.

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LOCAL HISTORY
BY RON PATCH

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

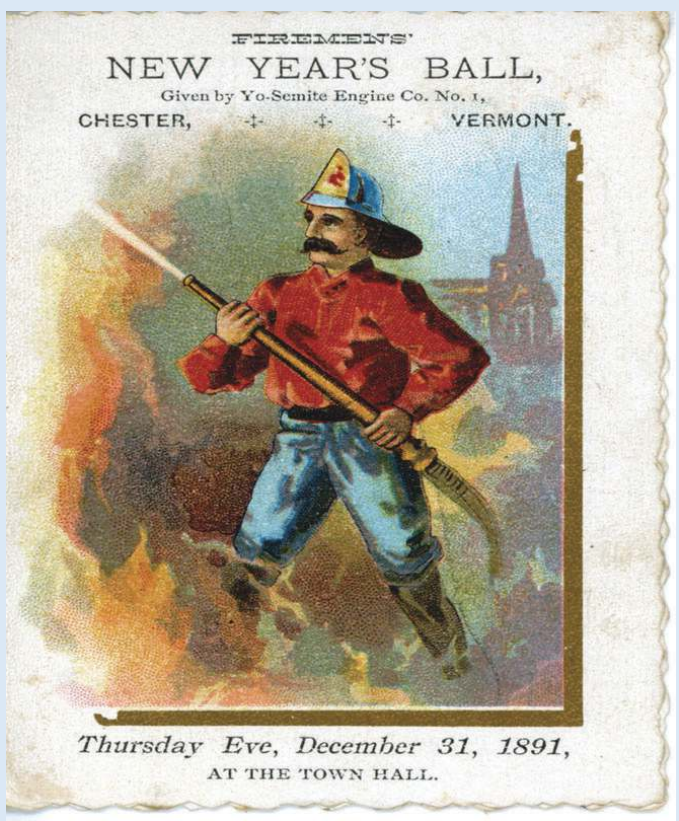
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Going to town

Here in the country, dances were our entertainment from the mid-1800s well into the 1900s. In those days most every fraternal organization held dances. Fire departments, Masons, Odd Fellows, and others held dances.

Many rural families played music together. Mom on the piano and Dad on guitar was common. Kids sang with some playing an instrument. Sometimes neighbors would get together on a Saturday evening for a neighborly shindig. In years gone by I have talked with many old-timers about these days.

When I was young, my father would play the guitar and sing for us. I remember him playing and singing, “Old Dan Tucker.” I always figured he learned it in the CCC camp. Arnold was very entertaining. My sister Cheryl took up the guitar. Her singing left much to be desired.



1891 New year's Eve Yo-Semite dance card. PHOTO PROVIDED BY CHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dance cards

Dance cards are an interesting bit of ephemera to collect. The photo with this article is a Yo-Semite dance card in the collection of Chester Historical Society.

Young ladies of the day were given a dance card when they entered the hall. They are single fold cards of a heavier paper. Printed on the cover is the organization that sponsored the dance. The dance card with this article is for a New Year's Ball at Town Hall.

The cover reads at the top: “FIREMENS' NEW YEAR'S BALL, Given by Yo-Semite Engine Co. No. 1 Chester Vermont.”

The bottom reads: “Thursday Eve, December 31, 1891, AT THE TOWN HALL.”

When you open this dance card on the left inside cover are numbered lines from one to 18. A young lady kept the dance card as a record of who she danced with on this particular evening.

Some ladies were more popular than others. Every line in the popular lady's dance card was a different suitor. On the inside right cover was the orchestra playing that evening. These were often guitars, banjos, fiddles, and piano. Music was very important in the days before

radio and television.

In the upper left corner of a dance card was a small hole, maybe an eighth of an inch in diameter. There was a string that passed through the hole. Attached to the string was a very short pencil. Ladies used this pencil to record with whom they danced. At the historical society, we have a couple dance cards that still have the string and pencil.

Last summer when we were working assembling histories for our book, “History of Chester's Fire Departments,” I asked those working to keep an eye out for this dance card. I had seen it before and wanted it for the cover of the book.

Day after day went by but the dance card wasn't found. Other dance cards were located but they were black and white, not color. Well one day this dance card appeared at my station under a pile of paper I was working on. I think Peter had a good chuckle.

“Anyhoo,” as my mother used to say, Tom Hildreth took the card to scan. For the cover I didn't want the printed information you see here. Tom cropped it to just the image. The hole at top left Tom filled in. Fear not. A couple pages in the book I have this dance card reproduced as you see it here.

Dance cards vary in size but would be approximately

four inches by three inches. I thought this card would make an eye-catching cover. Sitting on a shelf in a store, this book will stand out.

It's a great portrayal of a late 19th-century fireman. The fireman holds a long brass nozzle. We have one of these nozzles in our collection. It will be in our book along with dozens of other fire-fighting artifacts we have.

Right now, I'm planning to take eight or ten pages in the middle of the book and insert photos of these artifacts. Tom Hildreth, who photographed the artifacts, commented that he knew color photos would increase our cost but he thought some were worthy of the expense. So it will be.

I can picture an orchestra on the stage at Town Hall playing to a large crowd. I remember when Alumni dances were held at Town Hall. Remember John Stearns?

Check YouTube for “Old Dan Tucker” by Bruce Springsteen. I enjoyed hearing it again.

This week's old saying is from Lee Decatur: “My dad always said that a man who knew where to find what he needed was smarter than the man whose head was full of facts.”

Vermonters 75 and older can now make appointments to get Covid-19 vaccine

MONTPELIER, Vt. – Vermonters who are age 75 and older are now able to make an appointment for their Covid-19 vaccination. People in this age group can make an appointment online at www.healthvermont.gov/MyVaccine. Making an appointment online is the fastest way to get signed up.

Eligible Vermonters will be asked to create an account on the website, then log in to make their appointment. Family members and friends are strongly encouraged to assist their loved ones with online registration, as needed.

A call center will open for anyone who is unable to register online or who needs to speak with someone in a language other than English. These Vermonters can call 855-722-7878. Going forward, the call center hours will be Monday to Friday, 8:15 a.m.-5:30 p.m., and Saturday to Sunday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Vaccinations in this phase will begin Jan. 27, 2021 at Health Department clinics

and other locations around the state. Registrants will choose a location when making their appointment. There are no walk-ins. Appointments are required to receive a vaccine.

People who receive their first dose of Covid-19 vaccine will get either the Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. Like when receiving other immunizations, most people will be asked to wait for 15 minutes after receiving the vaccine to watch for reactions. They will also be given information about side effects and how to report any adverse reactions.

After getting their first dose, clinic staff will help people make an appointment to receive their second dose. Getting fully vaccinated with both doses provides the best protection against the virus.

The Covid-19 vaccine supply from the federal government is still limited, which is why vaccinations are being rolled out in phases, beginning with those who are most likely to experi-

ence severe illness and death from Covid-19. The Health Department will provide more information about registration for the next eligible groups when it is available.

States are receiving roughly the same number of doses from the federal government on a percentage of population basis. Vermont is a national leader in the rate of vaccinations distributed and administered. And Vermont is the first state in the country to have a higher percentage of its population vaccinated than the percentage of residents who have been infected with the virus.

It is important for Vermonters to know that other states that have broader eligibility strategies do not have a larger supply of vaccine. This has caused frustration, confusion, shortages, and delays in these states. Vermont's age-banding approach is intended to avoid these complications, while protecting those most at risk of severe illness or death.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide returns for 2021

REGION – AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides in-person and virtual tax preparation help to anyone, free of charge, with a special focus on taxpayers who are over 50 and have low-to-moderate income. All Tax-Aide volunteers are trained and IRS-certified every year to make sure they know about and understand the latest changes and additions to the tax code.

Why it matters

The U.S. tax code is complicated. As a result, many taxpayers overpay, turn to services they can't afford, or don't file – missing out on credits and deductions they've earned or may be eligible for.

What we do

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, Tax-Aide has introduced some changes to the process in which we assist taxpayers with the preparation of the required tax forms. You will be instructed on the process for the site when making your appointment.

- In-Person: In Tax-Aide's

traditional in-person service, taxes are prepared and filed by IRS-certified tax counselors, but now with strict physical distancing measures in place.

- Low-Contact: Taxpayers interact with IRS-certified Tax-Aide volunteers in one or two short, in-person meetings to exchange documents.

Where and when

In southern Windsor County and northern Windham County, we have three sites available this year. In past years, we have had five sites. The sites at the Chester American Legion and the Bellows Falls Senior Center will not be in operation this year due to the pandemic.

Here are the sites and contact information to make appointments. Please note the change in some telephone numbers.

- Ascutney: 802-875-2418, Tuesdays
- Londonderry: 802-824-4343, Tuesdays
- Springfield: 802-952-3954, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

We look forward to assisting you in the preparation of your tax forms.



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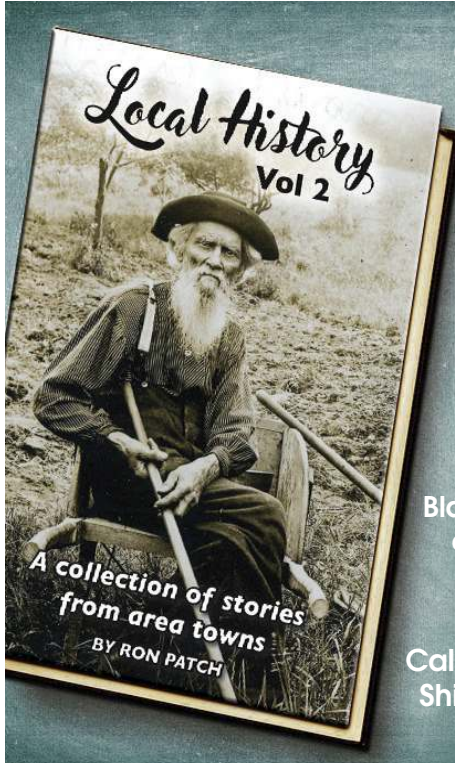
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opinion

COMMUNITY NEWS

Dear Editor,

The Shopper readers everywhere will join me in my grief: on the last day of 2020, that very troubled year, North Walpole's Discount Food Warehouse closed its doors for good. The store has fed the hungry and delighted area bargain-hunters for some 20 years – or at least that's how long I've been shopping there.

For many apple seasons, I was a proud member of the picking crew at Russell Allen's Connecticut Valley Orchard in Westminster. The crew had a tradition of leaving the orchard a little early every Tuesday in order to get to the "Excitement Store" before closing time. We called it that because we'd never know what exciting thing we were going to find there: jars of spicy Indian mango pickle? a 20-pound bag of goji berries? purple Peruvian parching corn on the cob? Having exchanged commentaries and compared notes with fellow shoppers and checkout people alike about what was particularly exciting this week, what was stale and what wasn't, what was worth stocking up on, we'd

gather our purchases and wander back across the river for a picnic potluck on the lawn of the Rockingham Free Public Library. Canned soup direct from the can, old crackers, out-of-date sardines, weird chips – paired with fine Italian mineral water or blood-orange soda and high-end organic butter cookies. Those were the days. Afterwards we'd peruse the library's stacks till they closed at 7 p.m. and the long-suffering staff gently shooed us out, at which point we'd saunter happily down into the Square as the Opera House bell tolled, buy our tickets – two dollars, was it really? – and settle in for the discount-night movie, no matter what was playing. This last was one of the crew's more firmly held unofficial commitments.

I know we weren't the only people whose lives revolved in one way or another around the Discount Food Warehouse. The big red heart on the sign said it all.

The store had been owned and operated for some years by Mr. G's, which continues to do

business directly across Route 5. I hope and trust that the modest backroom that comprises the food section at Mr. G's North Walpole location will now be expanded and improved in an attempt to at least partially fill the hole left in the social fabric of the village by the closure across the street. I find it promising that they've announced intentions to start accepting EBT at the Mr. G's store; this had long been the practice at the Excitement Store.

With many thanks to all the shelf-stockers and checkout people over the years, who seemed to be as entertained by the continually shifting contents of their store as I was, I close, and look forward to reading other people's Discount Food Warehouse reminiscences in these pages in coming weeks. Such an institution need not pass from us unmourned.

Sincerely,
Ian Ludders
Quaker City, N.H.

Dear Editor,

Upon reading The Vermont Journal dated Jan. 13, 2021, I was amazed to read our Selectboard had over expenditures of \$106,000 and then was shocked to read they are considering taking \$25,000 of cemetery monies to help them offset their so-called \$106,000 error.

Our Cemetery Commissioners are separately elected officials. They also have a separate budget voted by town voters and not part of any Selectboard's concerns.

Dear Editor,

Civics education.

It requires real effort to focus on anything but Covid-19 and the transfer of power, but life and its lesser concerns go on. A tri-partisan group of senators, including local colleagues Sen. Clarkson, Sen. McDonald, and all three Rutland County senators, are co-sponsoring S.17, a bill I've introduced to require Civics Education for a high school diploma. The ideological diversity of the bill's sponsors is important because the basic foundational philosophy and institutions of our nation are bigger than our differences. Fans may disagree on whether a pitch was a ball or a strike, but we can't play baseball unless we agree that three strikes make an out. So too, we Americans may disagree on a variety of issues, but we must agree on the democratic republican ground rules for disagreeing.

At the center of this area of agreement is the U.S. Constitution, the document that constitutes our government, declares it into existence, structures it, empowers it, limits its powers, and is the

Dear Editor,

Wow! Springfield does it again.

The Springfield Democratic Committee is so

Our town voted four to five years ago that all cemetery monies stay under the control of the Cemetery Commissioners.

Several years ago, a similar occurrence was noted by the village Light Commissioners when the village was taking monies from the light department for village use. The Light Commissioners fought the issue and won. Our village light department is a separate department governed totally by the Light Commissioners and

not the village Trustees or town Selectboard.

We now are looking at similar issues with the Selectboard trying to take funds from the Cemetery Commissioners, which I feel in no way they can do that. I will be checking with the state officials. As a Cemetery Commissioner, I will not approve such action.

Sincerely,
Herbert B. VanGuilder
Cemetery Commissioner
Ludlow, Vt.

Dear Editor,

The new session has begun. We are still exclusively meeting virtually, with meetings livestreamed on YouTube, so legislators are not physically going to Montpelier. It presents its challenges, but personally I like the virtual meetings right now. I do have very big personal news: my wife and I just had a baby girl, Ginny Ophelia Nicoll, born Dec. 14, 2020, six pounds, our first. So, the virtual session is actually more convenient for me in some ways because I don't want to leave the house that much anyway.

If you saved the YouTube links from last year, they should all still be the same. But this is the link to the legislative page with all the YouTube links: www.legislature.vermont.gov/committees/streaming.

We are mostly focusing our efforts this year on surviving this crisis and making sure Vermonters and Vermont businesses have the support they need. That being said, there are some


big issues that will likely come up that are not directly related. Modernizing our transportation infrastructure has been a priority for many years, and I think is one that may come up this year even though it is not directly Covid-related. It may end up somewhat partisan because it is tied so closely to climate change. Paid family leave is another that is a priority and has been for many years, and may come up this session even though it is not necessarily a Covid response bill. But I would argue that it is more important because of Covid, and I can't help but think how much better of a position we would have been in if we had a system to support Vermonters staying home when they were sick right now.

For this session I am on the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development. It is a pretty big change in subject matter for me, but I am excited, and obviously we will be at the forefront on a lot of the

Covid-response bills this year. Last session I was on Human Services, which handles a lot of issues I am interested in – Substance Misuse Prevention and Child Care, but Commerce & Econ Development is a lot more related to what I studied in college. And with this new committee, I will make more connections with those parts of our state government that support small businesses and workers' rights, which I think will be extremely valuable for our district in this current moment.

As always, call me if there's anything I can do to help or you want to talk about anything.

Stay safe and stay strong,
State Rep. Logan Nicoll
Ludlow, Mount Holly, Shrewsbury



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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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5				8				2
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Atlas page

4 Act of faith?

8 TV's "Warrior Princess"

12 Oklahoma city

13 Operatic solo

14 Sick as —

15 Newscast opener

17 Cathedral area

18 Vittles

19 Half of a '60s group

20 Sad song

22 Begged

24 Early Peruvian

25 Taylor Swift's genre, say

29 R-V link

30 Beetle

31 Bailey's boss

32 As well

33 Bargain for leniency

34 Felines

35 Fail to see

36 Island porch

37 Neptune's realm

40 Ride the waves

41 Actress

42 Cameron

43 Cowboy Cassidy

46 Challenge

47 Matty of

baseball

48 Old Olds

49 Auctioneer's cry

50 Citi Field team

51 Society newbie

DOWN

1 Yoga pad

2 Hubbub

3 Drink-to-go holder

4 Coffee bar offering

5 Cupid's alias

6 Tire filler

7 Salary

8 Idyllic place

9 Dutch cheese

10 Bright star

11 Mellows

16 Long tale

19 Viral Web phenomenon

20 Platter

21 Division word

22 Sweat outlets

23 Women's links org.

25 Buddies

26 Silicon Valley school

27 Teeny bit

28 Mozart's "— fan tute"

30 Whirl

33 Stunned

34 Sagan or Sandburg

36 Waikiki windings

37 Probability

38 Pisa farewell

39 British noble

40 Espy

42 Deli meat

43 Flamenco cheer

44 Born abroad?

45 Sailor

proud of the generosity displayed by the Springfield community. As a tribute to the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, the Springfield Democrats held a food drive Jan. 18 at Shaw's in the plaza to benefit the Springfield Family Center. Our generous community donated 35 boxes of food and \$500 to the Springfield Family Center. Good job, Springfielders.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to you all. We thank the man-

agement and the staff at Shaw's for not only allowing us to do the food drive, but for the kindness of all the employees with whom we interacted. We thank every single person who donated money or items of food. It felt good to be part of something so positive on this community action day.

With gratitude,
Char Osterlund
Chair, Springfield Town Democrats

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

Publisher, Robert Miller
publisher@vermontjournal.com

Assistant Publisher / Ad Designer, Shawntae Webb
ads@vermontjournal.com

Editor, Amanda Wedegis
editor@vermontjournal.com

Calendar Events / Staff Writer, Sharon Huntley
calendar@vermontjournal.com

Billing Department, Sharon Huntley
billing@vermontjournal.com

Corporate & Production Office:
8 High Street • Ludlow, VT 05149
Office: 802-228-3600 • Fax: 802-228-3464

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CHURCH SERVICES/OPINION

obituaries

Theodore Slaght Sr., 1935-2021

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Theodore Slaght Sr. passed away at his home Jan. 13, 2021 surrounded by his wife Joan. He leaves behind two sisters Sylvia and Arlene, son Ted Jr., daughter Lauri, two grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Ted was well known for his love of metal work.



Theodore Slaght Sr., 1935-2021. PHOTO PROVIDED

Ernestine Lake, 1925-2021

WINDSOR, Vt. – Ernestine Kimball Lake, 95, passed away at Cedar Hill Continuing Care in Windsor Jan. 23, 2021. She was born in 1925, the daughter of Ernest Kimball and Emma Rollins Kimball. She was predeceased by siblings Alice Fortez, Oliver Kimball, Forrest Kimball, Frank Kimball, and Beverly Eager. She was married 60 years to her beloved husband Henry Lake, who passed away in 2006. They spent most of their married life alternating between homes in Grafton, Vt. and Bradenton, Fla. She leaves behind four children Peter Lake and wife Polly of Wilmington, N.C., Susan Mellish and husband Lynn of Bellows Falls, Vt., Debra Dearborn and husband Peter of Bellows Falls, and Gary Lake and wife Elaine of Keene, N.H. She also leaves 10 grandchild-

dren, 23 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. Ernestine graduated as a registered nurse in 1946 from Mary Hitchcock Hospital in Hanover, N.H. and often spoke of how she loved her many years working in the operating room and delivery room at Rockingham Memorial Hospital in Bellows Falls. Besides her family, nursing and caring for others were her passions. Her hobbies included flower arranging, gardening, any kind of game (she was very competitive, especially at Scrabble, Bridge, Rummy, and Bingo), traveling, and antiques. She was a wonderful hostess and loved entertaining in her home, had lots of friends wherever she went, and was a great dancer. A memorial service will be held in Grafton, Vt. in July.

Amber J. Dwinell, 1987-2021

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Amber Jean (Lyon) Dwinell, born June 9, 1987, passed away unexpectedly Jan. 11, 2021. Amber was a very talented young woman with a heart of gold. She could brighten up the darkest of days with her brilliant personality and humor. Amber leaves behind her father Roland Lyon and his companion Ellen of Bellows Falls, Vt.; her mother Charlene Hobbs and her husband Bobby of Walpole, N.H.; and her siblings Velma Lyon and her family of North Walpole, N.H., Bertrand Lyon of Bellows Falls, Vt., Sheena Lyon and her family of Bellows Falls, Vt., and Shaena Lyon and her family of Springfield, Vt. Amber also leaves behind her six children Jayden, Kayliegh, Matthew, Josiah, Kaegyn, and Lila, and numer-



Amber J. Dwinell, 1987-2021. PHOTO PROVIDED

Dear Editor,

Many of us are lucky enough to have been mentored at some point in our lives, whether in a formal arrangement or merely by having someone take the time to guide us when we needed it, stand by our side as we navigated a difficult bump in the road. Locally, Windsor County has had the help of Windsor County Mentors, around for nearly 50 years and orchestrating mentoring relationships for over 1,500 mentor-mentee pairs during that time. Some of us have witnessed the positive impact of mentoring first hand, so join others in Vermont to mark January as National Mentoring Month. The research tells us that children who have a mentor: are 46% less likely than peers

to start using illegal drugs; are 52% less likely than peers to skip a day of school; are 81% more likely to participate in sports; are 55% more likely to enroll in college; and are 78% more likely to volunteer. The impact of 2020's disruptions to educational and family life for children will mean that mentoring is needed now more than ever. Many children who are mentored through WCM are at risk for stress-related issues that have been compounded by Covid-19. Please contact WCM's website for more information about supporting mentoring or to see if mentoring is for you. Thanks you! Sincerely, Peggy Kehew, volunteer Perkinsville, Vt.

Dear Editor,

Last week's successful Presidential Inaugural celebration Jan. 20 was a powerful reminder of how precious our democracy is. Central to its viability is the peaceful transfer of power. Until now, I am not sure I've fully appreciated this. After the attempted violent insurrection in Washington, D.C. Jan. 6 – I think we are all clearer on both the fragility and resiliency of our democracy. It was such a moving Inaugural. Every participant did a splendid job – even the person disinfecting the podium! From Lady Gaga's commanding performance of our national anthem to Amanda Gorman's poetry, it was extraordinary. And, our new president struck the right chord by focusing his inaugural address on the values we share, rather than on policies which may divide us. Despite the enormous challenges we face, it is wonderful to know we have an experienced leadership team in charge. I feel optimism as we begin the work of healing our divisions and inequities and rebuilding America. Here in Vermont, the 2021 Legislative Session is off to a productive start. Within the first two weeks, we have passed a bill through both the House and the Senate, and it has been signed by the governor. This bill, H.48, gives towns and municipal bodies the additional flexibility they need to navigate the challenges the Covid-19 pandemic presents for Town Meeting. Last year, the Legislature gave all municipal bodies the ability to use the Australian ballot for their annual meetings. Municipal bodies include towns and school and fire districts. This year, we added further choices, allowing them to change the date of their annual meeting and to mail ballots out to their residents. In addition, it gives the Secretary of State some flexibility to work with municipalities on organizational and administrative issues. Two million dollars have been set aside by the state from the CARES Act money to reimburse municipalities if they choose to mail out ballots to their voters. There are other issues around elections which our House and Senate Government Operations Committees will be exploring

this year. The Legislature is only able to make changes to our election laws in non-election years. So, this is the year to have those discussions and debates, and propose changes. At the moment, we are looking at a wide range of proposals – from Rank Choice voting to prohibiting corporate contributions to methods of keeping the Checklist more up to date to making "mail out" ballots permanent. We will be taking these ideas up for consideration very soon. I continue to serve as Vice-Chair of the Senate Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs Committee, and on the Senate Government Operations Committee. In response to the ongoing pandemic, our Senate Economic Development Committee passed out an extension on our Worker's Compensation Covid-19 provisions from last year. Clearly not thinking this pandemic was to be so long lived, we had set a sunset of Jan. 15. It is now our intent to have these provisions continue until 30 days after the termination of the Governor's Emergency Executive Order. This allows for the presumption of compensability of Covid-19 related claims for Workers Compensation during the Emergency Period for certain front-line workers. It will also make worker's comp more available to workers who get Covid-19. To be covered, workers will have to have had a heightened risk of infection. And while the claims will be rebuttable, the presumption will be that the disease was contracted on the job. We are also working on a bill, which extends the Covid-19 provisions affecting Unemployment Insurance benefits. I appreciate hearing from you. I can be reached by email aclarkson@leg.state.vt.us or by phone at 802-457-4627. To get more information on the Vermont Legislature, and the bills which are being debated now, those which have been proposed and passed, visit the legislative website: www.legislature.vermont.gov. Sincerely, Sen. Alison Clarkson Windsor County

ASCUTNEY, VT.

Vision of Light Church of Spiritualism and Healing, P.O. Box 133, Windsor The Sunday service is at 10 a.m. with Lay Pastor Dawn Hancy via Zoom. Sign up for the Vision of Light newsletter and Zoom links on Facebook @VOLChurch.

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

Immanuel Episcopal Church, 20 Church St. Please join us Sundays at 10 a.m. via Zoom. Go to Facebook @ImmanuelEpiscopalChurch. For more information, go to www.immanuelepiscopal.org.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H.

North Charlestown United Methodist Church, 471 River Rd. Go to www.facebook.com/UMCofNorthCharlestown for daily prayers and more information.

Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church, 99 Sullivan St., Claremont, N.H. Weekday services are available online Wednesday at 6 p.m. and Saturday at 5 p.m. If you plan on attending Sunday's 9:30 a.m. service, please email the church ahead of time as there is limited attendance. For more information, go to www.hroc.org.

CHESTER, VT.

First Universalist Parish of Chester, Route 103 North Services are Sundays at 10 a.m. on Zoom. To request a Zoom link, email firstuniversalistparishchester@gmail.com.

GRAFTON, VT.

Grafton Community Church, 55 Main St. Worship begins Sunday at 10 a.m. Masks must be worn in the sanctuary and maintain a safe distance from others. View sermons on Zoom. For more information, go to www.graftoncommunitychurch.org or call 802-843-2346.

LONDONDERRY, VT.

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

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.

MOUNT HOLLY, VT.

Village Baptist Church, 32 Church St. We're returning to our renovated sanctuary. Masks recommended, but we welcome all to come and worship with us Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Pastor Glenn Davis is available to counsel

or pray with anyone who is struggling with anxiety or other issues at 802-259-2440.

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

Calvary Baptist Church, 156 Main St. Live streaming of Sunday services at 9:30 a.m. will continue at www.facebook.com/calvarybaptistchurchspringfieldvt. For more information, go to www.calvarylovesspringfield.com.

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, or go to www.fccuccspfdvt.org.

Precision Valley Baptist Church, 69 Rt. 106 In-person Sunday services start at 10 a.m. Please wear a mask and observe social distancing. Live streaming is also available. For more information, check out Facebook @PrecisionValleyBaptistChurch.

Springfield Assembly of God, 269 River St. Sunday morning services are in-person and live streamed starting at 10 a.m. Masks are available and social distancing is encouraged. The sanctuary seating is arranged to promote distancing. Go to www.facebook.com/Springfield-Assembly-of-God-156583214402910 for links and more information.

St. Mary's Catholic Church, 10 Pleasant St. Sunday mass is at 9 a.m. and Tuesday at 7 p.m. to watch the live streams, go to www.youtube.com and search Holy Family Parish Springfield Vermont. Streaming is available five minutes before the service starts. For more information, go to www.stmaryjoseph.com.

United Methodist Church, 10 Valley St. Sunday worship is 9:30 a.m. Everyone should wear masks and physically distance themselves from others. For more information, call 802-885-1916. Everyone is welcome.

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.

First Congregational Church of Walpole UCC, 15 Washington Sq. Sunday service are at 10 a.m. via Zoom. For links and more information, go to www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalWalpoleNH.

Walpole Unitarian Church, corner of Union and Main St. Sunday Service begins at 10 a.m. via Zoom. For links and updates, go to www.walpoleunitarianchurch.org.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Viewpoints do not necessarily reflect the views of The Vermont Journal & The Shopper.

CHURCH SERVICES: We are currently running Social Distancing Church Services on an alternating schedule. Subject to space. All services are posted online at www.VermontJournal.com.

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outdoor

Virtual Ice Fishing Festival, Free Fishing Day –

RUTLAND, Vt. – With the 2021 winter ice fishing season firmly underway, and Free Fishing Day coming up Saturday, Jan. 30, the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department announced they have created an online Virtual Ice Fishing Festival to help new anglers learn about ice fishing equipment, gear, and techniques.

For the past seven years, VTFW has hosted an in-person ice fishing festival on Free Fishing Day to introduce new anglers to the activity. Held on a different frozen lake each year, participants would gather to learn skills such as ice safety, knot tying, using ice fishing rods and tip-ups, fish identification, and even fish cleaning and cooking.

However, according to department fisheries biologist Shawn Good, what would have been the eighth annual festival this year had to be canceled due to Covid-19 restrictions and state guidelines.

“Our past festivals have attracted 500-700 people each year who would come to learn about ice fishing and experience how much fun a day on the ice can be. But clearly, we can’t organize such an event with the continuing pandemic, so instead, we put together a virtual version.”

Good says the virtual festival offers nearly all the learning stations new anglers could experience in person, but in a fun and unique online 3-D environment.

“It really came together quite well. Department fisheries biologists and outreach staff got together a couple weeks ago, brought all the gear we’d have at the regular festival, and filmed staff members teaching each station. We partnered with a local videographer Zach McNaughton of Vermont Master Anglers who did an incredible job filming and editing each segment.”

Once viewers enter the Virtual Ice Fishing Festival, they will have a 360-degree view of Lake Rescue in Plymouth, and nine learning stations to choose from. They will be able to move from station to station, watching each video at their own pace, and learn the various facets of ice fishing. And yes, there are fish filleting and cooking stations.

Good says the virtual festival has one distinct advantage over the in-person one. “Our past festivals have always been held on Free Fishing Day itself, so after spending the day learning about ice fishing, anglers would have to buy a license when they would strike out on their first real ice fishing trip after that. But with the virtual festival, anglers can spend time online before Free Fishing Day learning the ins and outs of ice fishing, and then take advantage of the opportunity to try it for real on



Virtual hole digging presentation. PHOTO PROVIDED

Jan. 30 without the need of a fishing license.”

Good says the department hopes the online educational and instructional videos get people excited and interested in trying ice fishing this year.

“Ice fishing is a fun, social, family-oriented activity, and there are many great reasons for Vermonters new to the sport to try it this year. It’s generally more accessible than open water fishing as almost anyone can walk out on a frozen lake or pond and fish through the ice. And once you’re out there, there’s lots of room to spread out.”

To access the department’s new Virtual Ice Fishing Festival online, visit www.vtfishandwildlife.com/free-ice-fishing-day.

Free Ice Fishing Day is held annually on the last Saturday in January. The day is geared toward giving new ice anglers an opportunity to try ice fishing before purchasing equipment, but any angler may ice fish on any waterbody open to ice fishing statewide without a fishing license on Free Ice Fishing Day.

Ski for Heat 2021 in memory of Lynn Achee

PERU, Vt. – Ski for Heat, the local nonprofit organization that raises funds to help neighbors in need with heating fuel assistance, this year is dedicated in loving memory to Lynn Achee, one of the event’s longtime supporters, cheerleaders, and fundraisers.

The area fundraiser will be accepting donations online or through the mail. Winters are difficult for many in our community, and the hardships associated with Covid-19 can make it even more challenging for those in the area who are struggling to stay warm.

Mason Dental in Manches-

ter Center, Vt., has thoughtfully made a \$1,000 donation and has generously agreed to match donations up to \$2,500 to Ski for Heat in memory of Lynn, who was a dental assistant and valued member of the practice of Dr. Richard Heilemann – now Mason Dental – in Manchester Center for 35 years.

“Lynn is one of the original ‘Women of Wild Wings,’” said Ski for Heat founder Martha Robertson. “Her big heart and broad smile not only brightened the day, but also reflected the spirit of Ski for Heat. Lynn loved the outdoors and believed strongly in helping her neighbors, and her commitment to Ski for Heat expressed

this. We loved having Lynn and her husband, Tony, participate each winter.”

Due to Covid-19 restrictions and concerns, Ski for Heat said it will not be holding its annual cross-country skiing day at Wild Wings. Sincere thanks are extended to touring center owners Chuck and Tracy Black for all of their support over the past 20 years. Wild Wings is open for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing this season. Details and condition updates are available at www.wildwing-ski.com.

Ski for Heat is run and managed solely by volunteers and has been warming hearts and homes since 2001.

Waterfowl blinds must be removed by Feb. 15

MONTPELIER, Vt. – Waterfowl hunters who did not remove their hunting blinds from the waters of the state earlier must do so before Feb. 15 on Lake Champlain or May 15 on inland waters according to a reminder from the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department.

State law requires removal of the blinds before these deadlines to protect natural areas and to prevent boating accidents after the ice melts. “Removal of the blinds and any posts that may be below the surface of the ice is important because of the danger they present when boaters are on the water in the spring,” said State Game Warden Colonel Jason Batchelder.



State Game Warden Dustin Snyder inspects a duck blind on Lake Champlain prior to the Feb. 15 deadline for its removal. PHOTO BY CARL WEDIN, VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE

Batchelder says wardens annually record names and addresses

of blind owners and will follow up with inspections.

2020 statewide angler survey results are now available

MONTPELIER, Vt. – Vermont’s fourth angler opinion survey about fishing in Vermont is completed, and the results are now available on the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department’s website, www.vtfishandwildlife.com.

Fish & Wildlife conducted its fourth statewide angler survey as part of a long-term effort to gauge angler opinions, with previous surveys in 1991, 2000, and 2010. The survey was sent to 5,900 randomly selected resident and nonresident anglers and asked questions about angler experiences and opinions related to fishing in Vermont during 2017, 2018, and 2019.

“These surveys provide valuable insight that we use to inform our decisions and track trends through time,” said Fisheries Program Manager Maureen Lynch. “This information also helps us more accurately weigh public opinion alongside biological considerations.”

Anglers spent an estimated 2.1 million days fishing in 2019,



Check out the 2020 angler survey results online. PHOTO BY JOHN HALL, VERMONT FISH & WILDLIFE

and fishing quality throughout the state was rated higher in 2019 than in 2009.

“We did see a decrease in the total number of days anglers spent fishing, which is a trend recognized throughout the last 30 years in Vermont as well as in other states across the country,” said State Fisheries Bi-

ologist Bret Ladago. “However, 2020 marked the highest number of resident Vermont fishing licenses sold since 1992.”

“We’re hopeful that all of the folks that took advantage of this fun and exciting opportunity in 2020 will stick with it moving forward and encourage others to join them. It’s an inexpensive way to get outside, spend time with friends and family, and maybe bring home a tasty, locally-sourced meal.”

Brook trout remained the most preferred species for open water anglers, and yellow perch were the most preferred species for ice anglers. The popularity of bass, northern pike, and panfish species continues to increase, with over 60% of anglers fishing for smallmouth bass during the last three years. The survey also showed that anglers continue to value both the state’s trout stocking and wild trout management programs.

For additional highlights from Vermont’s 2020 Statewide Angler Survey or to read the full report, go to www.vtfishandwildlife.com/statewide-angler-survey.

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LUDLOW, Vt. – Firewood for sale, delivery in the Ludlow area. \$180 per cord. 802-228-3636. (02/02)

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SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Sunfit 24-bulb clamshell tanning bed. Operates on 120 volts. Disassembled and ready for pick up. \$500. 802-738-8858. (02/16)

GUNS WANTED

REGION – Guns wanted. Hand-guns, rifles, or shotguns. Top prices paid. Call Ray at 802-775-2859 or 802-236-7213. (02/09)

HELP WANTED

CAVENDISH, Vt. – Wanted housekeeper with an eye for detail. One morning a week, 5-6 hours. Please call 203-645-6405. (02/09)

Welder/Fabricator for custom ornamental metals shop. Experience forging, sandblasting, painting, and installing preferred. Min. age 21 w/driver's license. Full-time w/benefits. Contact Hawks Mtn Ironworks/ Springfield Fence, 50 Rte 106, N. Springfield, 802-886-2221. (02/09)

SNOW PLOWING

LUDLOW, Vt. – Snowplowing and sanding, Ludlow area, residential only. Reasonable rates. Contact SK Logging at 802-384-0313. (02/09)

WOOD BOILERS

Save up to 26% tax credit on your 2020 tax return with the purchase of a wood boiler. Deduction price includes cost of the system and installation. Contact New England Outdoor Furnaces at 603-863-8818. (TFN)

featured pet



My name's Lilly and I'm a 3-year-old spayed Pit Bull mix. I've had a couple of homes in my short life, and I think it's time that I finally settled down! I was once adopted and returned because my adopter had to move and could not take me with them.

I like going for walks and spending time around people. I particularly enjoy the more leisurely-style of walk, one where I can stop and smell the roses and everything else in between. I'm proud to say that I'm a pretty smart girl and pick up on new things quickly. Consistency is really important to me, as is finding a human companion that has experience with training dogs like me. I'm open to meeting other dogs, and could maybe even live with one if we got along. I can't live with cats, though, or young children.

Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society
4832 VT Route 44, West Windsor, Vt.
802-484-5829 // www.lucymac.org

classifieds



WE'RE HIRING!

Multimedia Advertising Sales Representative

Candidate will work with local businesses via phone, email, and in person to expand their brand identity and support their future success using our print and online marketing platforms. The ideal candidate is organized, team-oriented, works well on a deadline, and has exceptional customer service skills.

Duties & Skills Include:

- Effectively manage a geographic territory of active accounts while constantly seeking new clients
- Organize and translate customer marketing objectives, budgets, and timelines into effective advertising
- Communicate clients marketing plans with ad designer

Sales experience a plus, but we will consider well-qualified candidates and train them

Position includes base salary, commission, and mileage allowance

Email your Resume and Cover Letter to ads@vermontjournal.com

EOE

ANSWERS TO TAKE A BREAK!

Weekly SUDOKU

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

King Crossword

Answers												
Solution time: 26 mins.												
M	A	P		L	E	A	P		X	E	N	A
A	D	A		A	R	I	A		A	D	O	G
T	O	P		S	T	O	R		N	A	V	E
		E	A	T	S				M	A	M	A
D	I	R	G	E		P	L	E	D			
I	N	C	A		P	O	P		M	U	S	I
S	T	U		S	A	R	G	E	T	O	O	
C	O	P	A	P	L	E	A		C	A	T	S
		M	I	S	S				L	A	N	A
O	C	E	A	N		S	U	R	F			
D	I	A	Z		H	O	P	A	L	O	N	G
D	A	R	E		A	L	O	U		R	E	O
S	O	L	D		M	E	T	S		D	E	B

yellow page

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Prices are based on a 20 word listing. An additional 25 cents for each word thereafter.

Contact us to be in our Yellow Page Business Directory
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art crafts gifts

GALLERY AT THE VAULT

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

"Bernie Mittens" Made from recycled sweaters by JoAnne Russo

Curvature Exhibit by Jamie Townsend

Coming up - March Open Wall Resilience

Shop online www.galleryvault.org
Curbside available 802-885-7111
galleryvault@vermontel.net
(02/09/21 - 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. Like us on Facebook.
(06/01/21 - TFN - 26)

builders/contractors

HAMMER FOR HIRE LLC

802-376-3275 ~ "Not just for bargin' nails."

We offer a variety of sevice, 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)

NEW ENGLAND HOME BUILDING AND REMODEL

802-779-3414 — Located in Weston, VT

Additions, Renovations, New Construction, Home Repairs. Kitchens and Bathrooms. All aspects of construction from frame to finish. Fully insured, references available.

Like us on FACEBOOK and INSTAGRAM!
www.newenglandhomebuildingandremodel.com
(03/16/21 - 13)

builders/contractors (cont.)

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.
(03/09/21 - TFN - 13)

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.
(03/09/21 - 13)

home improvement

ROSE'S HOME IMPROVEMENT

Booking for winter needs. Also offer carpentry, kitchen & bathroom remodels, interior & exterior painting, window & door replacements, window cleaning, vinyl siding washing, pressure washing, drywall repairs, and odd jobs. 802-226-7077 or 802-591-0019. Cavendish, Vt.
(07/06/21 - 26)

masonry

DRC STONE DESIGN

Specializing in all Stone Masonry Applications including veneer, walls, patios, walkways. Fully insured. Free estimates. 32 years experience. Contact Dan Field at 802-384-0122 or stoneart49@gmail.com.
(03/09/21 - 13)

masonry (cont.)

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.
(09/07/21 - 52)

old tools wanted

\$\$\$ CASH PAID FOR OLD TOOLS \$\$\$

Planes, axes, hatchets, Stanley Tools, chisels, tool chests, etc. One tool or entire shop. Nothing with a cord or a battery. Call 802-579-5891.
(06/15/21 - 26)

organic lawn & land care

GREEN BEE LAWN & GARDEN

Serving Chester, Vermont and surrounding towns - 802-289-1968

Now Accepting New Customers - Our commitment to fully organic lawn and garden care practices gives you peace of mind for all the kids, pets, nature, and other friends using your yard. Our Solar Powered equipment is clean and quiet, so you can relax while we make your property beautiful.

We're Different - Green Bee has earned an Organic Land Management Professional Accreditation and can tailor a customized plan for managing your property to meet your goals. Large or small, all properties will benefit from utilizing this approach.

We are **fully insured, reliable, and priced right**. Like us on Facebook and Reach Out Today to secure your spot! Phone, text, or email: 802-289-1968, greenbeelawns@gmail.com.
(07/13/21 - 26)

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. Find us on facebook at Jbpropertymanagement.
(06/01/21 - 26)

calendar

JAN. 28 – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Thursday, Jan. 28 at 6 p.m., join Springfield Town Library for an online presentation, “A Celebration of Animation: The 100 Greatest Cartoon Characters in Television History.” Pop culture historian Martin Gitlin will show funny cartoon snippets, play trivia, and speak about their impact on pop culture. Sign up is required at www.eventbrite.com/e/a-celebration-of-animation-the-100-greatest-cartoon-characters-tickets-126853001743. For more information, contact Tracey Craft at 802-885-3108.

JAN. 30 – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Saturday, Jan. 30 at 11 a.m., join Michelle and Tracey as we create a Far Out Face Mask online via Zoom. We will be decorating a mask using food coloring and rubber bands, which the library will supply. This is a free, fun family event sponsored by Friends of Springfield Town Library. Masks on Vermont and the town of Springfield provided the masks. You will need to provide your own gloves, plastic bottles to mix your food coloring, and a plastic tablecloth for this event. Space and supplies are limited. Sign up at www.eventbrite.com/e/fit-to-be-tie-dyed-far-out-face-masks-tickets-129748967655. For more information, contact Michelle or Tracey at 802-885-3108.

FEB. 10 – REGION – AARP Vermont is offering a series of free virtual presentations on consumer fraud. On Feb. 10 is “Fraud, Scams, and Con-Artists: Coming to a Computer Near You,” the why, how, and basic defense regarding scams perpetrated over the internet. This presentation is continuously revised to address the latest cyber threats and addresses how to recognize malicious emails and pop-ups as well as Wi-Fi issues arising from the increased use of tablets and smart phones. Two presentations are offered at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Contact Elliott Greenblott, AARP Vermont Fraud Watch Coordinator, at egreenblott@aarp.org.

FEB. 12 – REGION – The Children’s Literacy Foundation is offering a monthly Book

Club for Grown-ups series featuring Vermont and New Hampshire authors who write for both kids and adults. On Friday, Feb. 12 at 7 p.m., bestselling author Dan Brown will discuss his latest novel in the popular Robert Langdon series, “Origin,” as well as his new children’s book, “Wild Symphony.” This Zoom event is free, but donations to the Children’s Literacy Foundation are encouraged. Learn more and sign up for the event at www.clifonline.org.

FEB. 13 – LUDLOW, Vt. – Please join OMS for our first-ever virtual Winter Festival. Purchase a household ticket to join OMS on Zoom for a festive evening at home with live music by Sammy Blanchette and special guest appearances. We will have an online silent auction that is going live Jan. 30 and staying open until the end of the virtual event Feb. 13. Tickets can be purchased

online. Visit www.okemomountainschool.org for details. Prior to the event, you will receive a Zoom link to join. All proceeds will go towards our scholarship fund.

FEB. 17 – GRAFTON, Vt. – On Wednesday, Feb. 17, from 7-8:30 p.m., the Nature Museum will host bestselling author Doug Tallamy for an online presentation and discussion of his book “Nature’s Best Hope,” with a focus on cultivating native plants as a way to support biodiversity. For more information and to register, go to www.nature-museum.org.

FEB. 24 – REGION – AARP Vermont is offering a series of free virtual presentations on consumer fraud. On Feb. 24 is “Identity Theft: Steal Your Name, Steal Your Life,” an explanation of identity theft that explains how and why it occurs, provides instruction on protective steps, and explains what to do if it happens. This presentation includes techniques used by identity thieves who commit fraud using stolen information. Two presentations are offered at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Contact Elliott Greenblott, AARP Vermont Fraud Watch Coordinator, at egreenblott@aarp.org.

MARCH 10 – REGION – AARP Vermont is offering a series of free virtual presentations

on consumer fraud. On March 10 is “Medicare Fraud: It’s Enough to Make You Sick.” Annually, \$65 billion is lost to Medicare Fraud that could be applied to extended benefits and reduced taxpayer liability. This presentation explains how the crime is committed, how to protect yourself, and how to report it. Two presentations are offered at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Contact Elliott Greenblott, AARP Vermont Fraud Watch Coordinator, at egreenblott@aarp.org.

WEDNESDAYS – BRATTLEBORO, Vt. – Advanced directives: Where do I find the forms? Who should be named as my healthcare agent? Who do I give the completed form to? How do I talk with my family about my healthcare wishes if I’m unable to speak for myself? 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 don.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 or call your local hotline at 802-885-8281 and join a meeting. You are not alone.

WARNING FOR ANNUAL TOWN AND TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING

The legal voters of the Town of Springfield and Town of Springfield School District are hereby notified and warned to meet at Riverside Middle School Gymnasium in said Town on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. (8:00 o'clock in the forenoon) until 7:00 p.m. to vote by ballot for Town and Town School District Officers, for all appropriations to be voted by ballot, and all other items of business to be voted by ballot.

In accordance with Act 162 (2020) all voting will be done by Australian Ballot on Tuesday, March 2, 2021, therefore, there will not be in-person floor voting on Monday, March 1, 2021.

A public informational hearing will be held on Zoom video conferencing on Monday, March 1, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. to hear reports of the Town Officers, Town School District Officers and Committees, to discuss all Australian Ballot articles on the Annual Town and Town School District Meeting Warning and to do any other business that can legally be done under this Warning.

HOW TO JOIN AND ACCESS THE REMOTE PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARING:

MEETING ID: 863 3633 2110

- **By computer:** Join meeting by clicking here <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86326222110> You may be prompted to enter the Meeting ID. You may need to download software here <https://zoom.us/>
- **By smartphone, tablet, or other device:** Download and open the <https://zoom.us/> app. You may have to create a free account or sign into your existing account. Select the option to join meeting and enter the Meeting ID. One-tap mobile device click here: +13017158592
- **By telephone:** Dial 1 (301)715-8592 and when prompted enter the Meeting ID. Note that long distance rates may apply.
- **Meeting link** can also be accessed on the home page of the Town of Springfield website
- **Watch** live on SAPA TV or stream it from Sapatv.org

If you have difficulty accessing the meeting or do not have the ability to comment remotely during the meeting, please call 802-885-2104.

ARTICLE 1: To elect the following Town Officers and Town School District Officers for the ensuing year:
Cemetery Commissioner Selectmen
First Constable Town Moderator
Library Trustees Town School District Moderator
Lister Trustee of Public Funds
School Directors
ARTICLE 2: Shall the Town vote a salary of FIFTY and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$50.00) per meeting for the Town Moderator for the ensuing year? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)
ARTICLE 3: Shall the Town vote to pay each Selectperson the sum of FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$500.00) to help defray the costs and expenses incurred in serving the Town in that office? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)
ARTICLE 4: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of TWELVE MILLION, EIGHT HUNDRED FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED THIRTEEN and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$12,845,413.00) for the budget of the Town for salaries, incidental and necessary Town expenses, including highways, and for the purposes for which the law requires appropriations, and for which a Town may legally vote? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)
ARTICLE 5: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$700,000.00) for repaving, road construction, gravel road improvements, and ancillary professional services for the projects specified in the Road Surface Management System Report dated March 2015 or other duly warranted sidewalk improvements? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)
ARTICLE 6: Shall the Town vote to appropriate the sum of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$100,000.00) for sidewalk reconstruction in various locations throughout the Town? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)
ARTICLE 7: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District authorize the school board to borrow money not in excess of anticipated revenue for the school year by issuing bonds or notes? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)
ARTICLE 8: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District approve a salary of FIFTY and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$50.00) per meeting for the Town School District Moderator for the ensuing year, the funds for which are included in the school budget? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)
ARTICLE 9: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District approve the payment to each School Board member of FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$500.00) to help defray the costs and expenses incurred in serving in that office, the funds for which are included in the school budget? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)
ARTICLE 10: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District approve the School Board to spend THIRTY TWO MILLION, FOUR HUNDRED THIRTY ONE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED NINE and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$32,431,509.00), which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$18,324 per pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 3.87% lower than spending for the current year. (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)
ARTICLE 11: Shall the voters of the Springfield Town School District create an operating expense reserve fund, with an initial transfer of \$400,000.00 from the district's FY20 surplus, to be under the control of the board of school directors, for the purpose of paying operational expenses that were not anticipated at the time of the budget preparation by the

board? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)
ARTICLE 12: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$2,500.00) for the support of Senior Solutions (formerly Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont) for help to support seniors and their families who are trying to remain at home and not be placed in a nursing home? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)
ARTICLE 13: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of NINE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$9,000.00) to Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA) to assist Springfield in responding to the emergency needs of the community and to provide all available and applicable services to families and individuals in need? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)
ARTICLE 14: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of SIXTY THREE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$63,500.00) to help support the high-quality home health, maternal and child health, and hospice care provided in patients' homes and in community settings by the Visiting Nurse and Hospice for VT and NH? Care is provided regardless of ability to pay. (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)
ARTICLE 15: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of EIGHT THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$8,500.00) for the support of Senior Solutions (formerly Council on Aging for Southeastern Vermont) for help to support seniors and their families who are trying to remain at home and not be placed in a nursing home? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)
ARTICLE 16: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of FOUR THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$4,000.00) to help support the Valley Health Connections (formerly Precision Valley Free Clinic) to help the uninsured access health care? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)
ARTICLE 17: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of TWELVE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$12,500.00) for the support of the MOOver f/n/a the Current operated by Southeast Vermont Transit, Inc., to provide transit services to the residents of the Town of Springfield? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)
ARTICLE 18: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$2,500.00) to Green Mountain RSVP & Volunteer Center of Windsor County to develop opportunities for people age 55 and older to positively impact the quality of life in the community of Springfield through volunteer service? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)
ARTICLE 19: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of TEN THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) to assist with the cost of operating the Meals on Wheels Program of Greater Springfield that provides daily hot & cold congregate and home delivered meals and other nutritional needs to the qualified residents of Springfield? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)
ARTICLE 20: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of THREE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$3,000.00) to Windsor County Partners d/b/a Windsor County Mentors, for youth mentoring services provided to the children of Windsor County? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)
ARTICLE 21: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of FIVE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$5,000.00) to the Springfield Supported Housing to assist families and individuals find permanent housing and provide in home case management services for 6 months to two years after placement? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)
ARTICLE 22: Shall the Town appropriate the sum of FIFTY-FIVE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$55,000.00) to the Springfield Family Center to assist with the cost of providing a free meal daily, a free food shelf, and other services related to hunger, homelessness and related social-service needs in the community? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)
ARTICLE 23: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of FOUR THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$4,000.00) to the Women's Freedom Center for general budget support to provide services to women and their children who are experiencing emotional, physical and/or sexual abuse and are residents of the Town? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)
ARTICLE 24: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of NINE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$9,500.00) to the Springfield Art and Historical Society to assist in preserving, maintaining, and displaying, for the public, the history and art of the Town of Springfield, Vermont? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)
ARTICLE 25: Shall the Town of Springfield appropriate the sum of NINE THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$9,000.00) to Turning Point Recovery Center Drop-In Center and Transition House to help with the everyday cost of providing recovery services and housing for men and that are in recovery from alcohol, substance abuse and co-occurring disorders? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)
ARTICLE 26: Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of TEN THOUSAND and 00/100 DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) to help support outpatient, mental health and substance abuse services by the staff of Health Care and Rehabilitation Services, Inc.? (By Australian Ballot, the Ballot Box will be open at 8:00 a.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m.)

Dated this 25th day of January, 2021 at Springfield, County of Windsor and State of Vermont.

Walter E. Martone, Chair	Troy Palmer, Chair
John A. Bond	Jeanice Garfield
Michael E. Martin	Michael Griffin, Jr.
George T. McNaughton	Stephen Karaffa
Kristi C. Morris	Patti Kemp
Board of Selectmen	Board of School Directors
Town of Springfield	Springfield School District

community

2021 Sammy Pierce Memorial Scholarships open to applicants

REGION – The Sammy Pierce Memorial Scholarships are awarded annually to deserving students in recognition of volunteered time and talent. These scholarships are open to students in communities served by the Crown Point Board of Realtors – Andover, Baltimore, Cavendish, Chester, Clarendon, Grafton, Ludlow, Mount Holly, Plymouth, Reading, Rockingham, Shrewsbury,

Springfield, Wallingford, Weathersfield, Weston, and West Windsor. The Crown Point Board of Realtors awards \$1,000 to two deserving students. The students may be 2021 high school graduates, homeschooled, returning college students, previous recipients returning to upper classes, or adult students continuing their education in a two- or four-year college program.

While the course of study is not restricted in any way, applicants must have a strong history of volunteer community service. Applications and information for the Sammy Pierce Memorial Scholarships are available at your local high school or by contacting Helen Wachtel at 802-275-3902. The deadline to submit applications for these scholarships is Monday, May 3,

2021. Selections will be announced in June. The Sammy Pierce Memorial Scholarships are given in honor of Sammy Pierce, who is remembered as one of the most generous, thoughtful realtors in Windsor County. His generous character and the impact he made on his community are honored by this annual scholarship. Those wishing to make a contribution to the Sammy Pierce Education Fund are encouraged. Donations may be sent to the Sammy Pierce Education Fund, Crown Point Board of Realtors, c/o Rachael Hyjek, Treasurer, Engel & Volkers, 126 Main Street, Suite 1A, Ludlow, VT 05149.

AUTOMOTIVE/REAL ESTATE

NEFCU announces 2021 nursing scholarships

REGION – New England Federal Credit Union is now accepting nursing scholarship applications for 2021. Three scholarships of \$3,000 each are awarded each year to applicants who qualify. Applications can be obtained online at www.nefcu.com, at any branch, or by calling 802-879-8790. Applicants must be members of NEFCU who are applying to or are enrolled in an accredited undergraduate or graduate nursing program. Requirements include:

- Submission of the application form
 - High school transcript, college transcript, or General Education Degree
 - Description of related work experience
- Applicants must also submit an original 250-word essay describing how they will use their degree to contribute to their community. Applications must be either postmarked or dropped off at any NEFCU branch by Feb. 28, 2021. The mailing address is Scholarship Committee, NEFCU, P.O. Box 527, Williston, VT 05495. Scholarship winners will be notified by April 23, 2021.

New England Federal Credit Union, headquartered in Williston, Vt., is a member-owned financial institution serving communities in 12 counties of Vermont: Addison, Bennington, Caledonia, Chittenden, Franklin, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Orange, Rutland, Washington, Windham, and Windsor; and four counties in New Hampshire: Cheshire, Grafton, Merrimack, and Sullivan. For more information about membership requirements and benefits, visit www.nefcu.com.

Members Advantage Community, River Valley credit unions partner

REGION – On Oct. 19 and Oct. 21, 2020, respectively, the membership of both Members Advantage Community Credit Union and River Valley Credit Union overwhelmingly approved the merger of the two credit unions. The newly combined credit union will serve the entire state of Vermont as well as Grafton, Sullivan, and Cheshire counties in New Hampshire. The partnership was originally proposed to both memberships in early July, citing the joining of two like-sized credit unions

with similar philosophies and cultures. Members will benefit by the expanded branch locations, a strengthened financial position, lower fees, enhanced products and services, and operational efficiencies obtained by working together. A new name is on the horizon for the credit unions, which will represent their heritage and combined values and position them for future growth in the markets served. It is expected to be announced within a few months. According to Sean Gammon, who will remain on as the newly combined credit union's CEO, "This

strategic partnership is a big win for our combined membership. We remain a relatively small, local financial cooperative, who is committed to maintaining the great personal service that our members value and trust. The entire credit union team is excited to serve our members' financial needs now and into the future as we take advantage of all the opportunities this partnership provides." Members Advantage Community Credit Union is a \$320 million-plus financial institution, with ten locations currently serving over 30,000 members. MACCU provides membership opportunities to anyone who lives or works in Vermont and the following three New Hampshire counties. For more information about MACCU, visit www.mac-cu.org or find us on Facebook.

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Accessibly Located in an established neighborhood, this three bedroom cape offers affordable living in a maintainable size. Kitchen has added sideroom/pantry; living room with wood floors, first floor full bath. Two bedrooms on the first floor. Upstairs with storage and bedroom and view of local hills. Basement with room for more storage. Back yard with space for outdoor living. **REDUCED AGAIN TO \$95,000**

1.2+/- acre parcel located on a corner with access to town water/sewer. There are bonus features, including a hydrant at the corner, sloping topography that gets you above the rest with valley view potential and the possibility of subdivision. **\$29,900**



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**

This 3+/- acre parcel is located towards North Springfield with frontage on the Black River and Spoonerville Brook. A large portion of the property is cleared with some wooded area for buffer. A nice sunny location. **\$35,000**



If carefree living is what you are looking for then look no further. This 2 bedroom, 2 bath Townhouse Condo will fit the bill. The first floor living space features a large living room with new flooring, kitchen/dining area a half bath and three season porch. 2nd floor offers 2 bedrooms with ample closet space, including new carpeting, full bath and laundry. Condo fees cover ground and exterior maintenance, trash removal. This must see is located in close proximity to walking/hiking trails and short drive to skiing. **\$115,000**

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