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# Chester, Cavendish, and Ludlow election results, Chester recount confirms Chase

BY SHARON HUNTLEY  
*The Vermont Journal*

**REGION** – Local election results came back with few surprises as Cavendish, Chester, and Ludlow voters all approved their articles, along with the budgets of Green Mountain Unified School District, River Valley Technical Center, and Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District. The one exception was for the three-year Chester Selectboard seat currently held by Heather Chase.

**Chester**  
In Chester, although the initial ballot count showed a Chase victory by a slim six-vote margin over challenger Scott Blair, winning 251 to 245, Blair requested a recount, which took place Monday, March 8 by Chester's Board of Civil Authority. The recount resulted in a secure win for Chase with the final vote coming in at 256 for

Chase and 243 for Blair. According to Town Clerk Deb Aldrich, the change in count is the result of an over vote override process. If the voting machine sees that someone has voted for both candidates, the vote for that category is thrown out. With the BCA review, if someone has crossed out one of those choices, or made some other comment, the board identifies the "intention" of the vote and then counts the vote for the appropriate candidate.

Chester saw a turnout of 545 voters who approved the proposed budget of \$3,342,887.01 easily with 488 "yes" versus 53 "no" votes. All of Chester's 21 articles were approved with three articles asking for exempt taxes for Chester Rod and Gun Club, Green Mountain Softball Field, and Olive Branch Lodge; however, all three receiving a higher number of "no" votes than other articles with 180,

154, and 192 respectively. Leigh Dakin and Jeffrey Holden both retained their one-year terms on the board with 377 votes and 328 votes respectively. Will Hoser challenged their seats with 264 votes.

Bill Dakin was easily reelected as Chester's town moderator. In Cavendish, 163 registered voters cast their ballots, approving all four town articles, including the Fiscal year 2022 budget total of \$1,651,947, which received 132 "yes" versus 24 "no" votes.

**Cavendish**  
The closest contest in Cavendish was for Article 4, which will rescind the Australian ballot process for adopting the town plan. That article passed 77 "yes" votes to 72 "no." The town plan will now be approved by the Selectboard.

Only one position in Cavendish was challenged, the

three-year Selectboard term currently held by Mike Ripley. He retained his seat with 89 votes versus 58 for challenger Michael Kell. The voters also reelected Mike Ripley as town moderator.

All other elected positions were running unopposed, including Stephen Plunkard and Sandra Russo, who were both elected to a one-year term on the Selectboard.

Several positions had no one running and not enough write-in votes to claim the seat such as the one-year Town Agent position, the three-year Auditor position, two-year Trustee of Public Funds, the one-year GMUSD director position, and the two-year GMUSD Director position. Dennis Michael Reilly was elected to the GMUSD board for a three-year term.

**Ludlow**  
In Ludlow, 220 voters come to the polls, reelecting Martin

Nitka as town moderator and approving all 10 articles, along with their fiscal year 2022 budget of \$4,106,503 with 175 "yes" votes versus 29 "no."

Ludlow voters also approved Article 9, which will provide Ludlow Ambulance with \$312,085 to help support their efforts, by a margin of 181 to 31.

On the Ludlow Selectboard, Brett Sanderson was reelected to a three-year term with 186 votes. Scott Baitz and Justin Hyjek were both reelected to one-year terms with 191 and 170 votes respectively.

**Education**  
For the Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District, Judith Pullinen was elected as a director for a two-year term with 192 votes. She will be finishing out a three-year term. Kelly Tarbell and Paul Orzechowski were both elected to three-year terms with 178

and 165 votes respectively. River Valley Technical Center passed their budget of \$2,885,535 with 679 votes across all three towns.

Green Mountain Unified School District, which includes the towns of Andover, Baltimore, Cavendish, and Chester, voted 546 to 293 to pass the \$14.2 million budget, with a \$17,421 per equalized pupil cost. This is a 1% increase over last year in spite of a 14% increase for the Two Rivers Supervisory Union portion of the budget, largely due to soaring special education costs. GMUSD covers approximately 65% of the TRSU budget in their numbers.

Ludlow Mount Holly Unified Union School District approved their budget of \$7,235,089 with an equalized pupil cost \$18,788.39. Their budget includes approximately 35% of the TRSU budget.

# Chester to proceed with final architectural drawings for Yosemite Firehouse

BY SHARON HUNTLEY  
*The Vermont Journal*

**CHESTER, Vt.** – After initial organizational duties where Arne Jonynas was once again appointed as chairman, Heather Chase was reaffirmed as vice chair, and Leigh Dakin was designated as clerk, the Chester Selectboard spent the majority of their March 3 meeting discussing next steps for ongoing restoration of the Yosemite Firehouse.

Chester Town Manager Julie Hance updated the board with her recommendation that the town step back this year to have final architectural construction drawings done before moving forward with any other changes

to the 1879 historic firehouse, which will cost approximately \$15,000. The town had budgeted \$20,000 for upgrades to the building so they have the money for the expense.

Hance said that with a historic building the only way to receive grant funding was through historical preservation grants, which require final construction drawings specifically with an architect that specializes in historic buildings. Hance is working with Geoff Metcalfe from Keefe & Wesner Architectural Design who specializes in historic restorations.

The board supported Hance's reassignment of the budgeted funds for the project with Jony-

nas saying that the final drawings would "cover everything we have to worry about: structure, outside, grounds, floodplain, all of it." Lack of the final drawings has hampered restoration efforts in the past.

In other news, board member Jeff Holden told the board the American Legion was set to reopen on the upcoming Sunday after being closed for seven months. The Legion will be following the appropriate state Health Department guidelines.

The next Chester Selectboard meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 17 at 6 p.m.

# Divided Sky Foundation rehab facility seeks DRB approval in April

BY SHARON HUNTLEY  
*The Vermont Journal*

**LUDLOW, Vt.** – The Divided Sky Foundation, established by Phish front man Trey Anastasio, has purchased the former Green Mountain at Fox Run building with plans for a nonprofit substance use treatment facility.

The foundation has a scheduled meeting with the Development Review Board in April to obtain town approval for the project, although the town is waiting for a final site plan document before they can proceed.

According to a Divided Sky representative, they

are working on the final deliverables, including the site plan, and will deliver them to the Ludlow town office by the March 12 deadline, in order to make their April meeting.

Despite the notoriety of the Divided Sky's founder, Ludlow's Municipal Manager Scott Murphy expects continued pushback from the town. A prior DRB meeting lasted three hours as many citizens aired their concerns about rehab facility. "The DRB will judge the application on its own merits and see if it meets with town regulations," he said.

Anastasio battled his own addiction in the past, which led to the breakup of Phish in 2004. After spending more than a

year in rehab, Anastasio reunited with his other Phish band mates and returned to the stage in 2009.

In the fall of 2020, Anastasio performed an acoustic eight-week residency of virtual concerts called the "Beacon Jams," at the Beacon Theater in NYC, to help raise money for the Divided Sky Foundation and the Fox Run purchase.

In a statement released earlier this week, Anastasio thanked everyone for the support of Beacon Jams and donations to Divided Sky Foundation. "It means so much to me, and it's going to mean so much to the individuals and families that will benefit from this treatment center."

# American Legion Post 36 announces 2021 scholarships

**LUDLOW, Vt.** – The American Legion Ballard-Hobart Post 36 is pleased to announce that we will continue annual scholarship awards for the 2021 graduating class. Students residing in the Ludlow, Mount Holly, and Plymouth areas are encouraged to submit your high school's general scholarship application

to Ballard-Hobart Post 36, Attn: Scholarship Committee, 133 Main Street, Ludlow, VT 05149.

Please contact Ballard-Hobart Post 36 Scholarship Committee Chairman Scott Stevens at lstevens@vermontel.net with any questions and additional eligibility information.

# Jim Hasson celebrates 95th birthday

**CAVENDISH, Vt.** – Dozens of Cavendish and area well-wishers drove in a celebratory birthday parade to honor 95-year-old Jim Hasson on Sunday. Cars, trucks, and emergency vehicles honked and cheered the decorated Seabees vet as he waved his thanks.

PHOTOS PROVIDED



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# Gov. Phil Scott announces next phase of vaccine rollout

MONTPELIER, Vt. – The next phase of the state’s vaccination efforts began March 8 for Vermonters with certain high-risk conditions. With additional supply coming to the state, Gov. Scott also unveiled a new track of the vaccine rollout starting this week to include school staff and childcare providers, as well as an expansion of the definition of first responders under Phase 1A.

“Our strategy since the start has been to protect those most at risk and to preserve life. We know age is a top risk factor, and we’re already seeing the positive impacts of our strategy with deaths declining and decreasing case counts amongst our elderly population,” said Scott. “With Johnson & Johnson receiving approval over the weekend, on top of increased supply from Moderna and Pfizer, we’ll be able to scale up and move quicker to get more people vaccinated.”

**High-risk health conditions**

People with high-risk conditions, which includes approximately 75,000 Vermonters, will

be divided into two segments: Phase 5A for Vermonters 55 years old and above with high-risk conditions are eligible to register as of March 8, and Phase 5B for Vermonters 16 and older with high-risk conditions can register beginning March 15. These groups will be able to register through the state’s standard registration process once their category is opened.

In addition to previously announced high-risk conditions, this phase will also include current cancer, heart disease, pregnancy, and disabilities that involve chromosomal disorders, such as Down syndrome and those with compromised lung function. People with these conditions will not need to get documentation of these conditions to receive the vaccine. The full list of conditions can be seen at [www.healthvermont.gov/My-Vaccine](http://www.healthvermont.gov/My-Vaccine).

Dr. Levine explained the state developed the list of conditions based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and was

refined using Vermont-specific data. “We’re glad to be that much closer to protecting these Vermonters, who, as the data shows, are at higher risk for severe illness and death from Covid-19,” said Dr. Levine.

**School staff and child care providers**

The state began offering teachers, school staff, and childcare providers the option of registering for clinics in their district. Alternatively, this group will be able to make appointments for the two-dose Pfizer or Moderna vaccine at Walgreens, which is part of the federal pharmacy

program.

“As our mental health data shows, our kids are not doing well and there have been serious public health impacts due to the limitations of hybrid and remote learning,” said Scott. “We know getting our kids back in school for in-person instruction five days a week is essential, and this is a step forward on that goal.”

**Vaccination progress**

These announcements come as Vermont surpassed the milestone of 100,000 people receiving at least their first dose. State officials also welcomed the upcoming introduction of the new-

ly approved Johnson & Johnson vaccine into the state’s vaccine supply.

“This third vaccine will be a game-changer,” said Dr. Levine. “It means more of us can get vaccinated more quickly – our pathway out of this pandemic.”

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is rated as highly effective at preventing serious illness, as are the two vaccines we already have. It’s a single shot that can be kept in normal refrigeration, which makes it easier to distribute and administer. Data for this vaccine showed 100% protection against hospitalization, ICU admission,

mission, and death. “This is the protection that matters most,” Dr. Levine said.

For information about getting vaccinated and to register for an appointment if eligible, visit [www.healthvermont.gov/My-Vaccine](http://www.healthvermont.gov/My-Vaccine).

Anyone who is unable to make their appointment online, needs help, or who wants to speak with someone in a language other than English can call 855-722-7878. The call center is open Monday through Friday, from 8:15 a.m.-5:30 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

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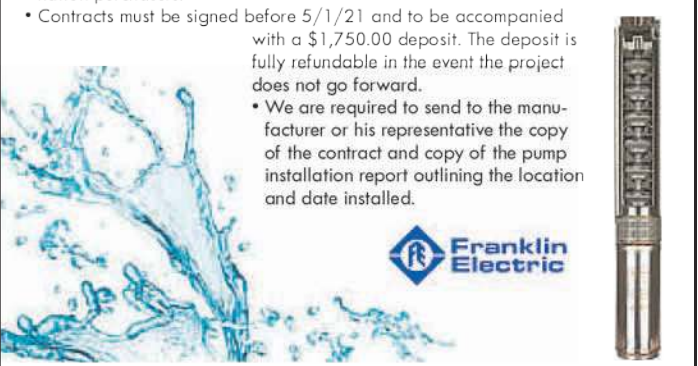
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LUDLOW, Vt. – In a very detailed and interesting presentation, Chief Master Sergeant Jeffrey A. Stebbins of the Vermont Air National Guard discussed the role of that group with the Ludlow Rotary Club during its weekly Zoom-based meeting.

Stebbins emphasized that the role of the VT ANG represented the epitome of “the importance of citizen soldiers” in supporting both the military and civilian role of the Air National Guard.

In describing the recent replacement of the aged F-16 jet fighters with the new F-35 planes, he noted that VT ANG “is about one year out from being totally converted to F-35 planes.” Currently, all 20 F-35

## Air National Guard representative addresses Ludlow Rotary Club

planes have arrived at the Burlington International Airport facility of VT ANG, making it the first base in the country to receive its full complement of the state-of-the-art aircraft.

The total number of VT ANG members is just under 1,000 personnel. The bulk of this staff covers the maintenance of the planes, airport, and structure needs. In addition to the military obligations of the command, VT ANG members have played a vital role in Covid-19 relief and assistance.


Stebbins cited the following activities in which members of VT ANG have provided assistance in the pandemic:

- VT ANG has devoted over a

1,000 man-hours to building a removable hospital, erecting it, dismantling it, and, when resurgence in Covid illness occurred, rebuilding it.

- Delivering over three million meals to Vermont residents
- Testing over 12,000 people for the virus, and
- Soon becoming involved in the actual handling of Covid-19 vaccinations.

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## Timber Inn Motel receives Hotel Award

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Timber Inn Motel in Ludlow has received the “Loved by Guests” award for 2021 from Hotels.com in recognition of the “superb” reviews from its recent guests. The Timber Inn is owned and operated by Glenn Heitsmith.

In making the award, Hotels.com cited the “Loved by Guests” award as “an annual program to recognize partners who deliver exceptional service to our customers. This award is based solely on guests reviews, a true testament to your high standards and knowing how to keep your guests happy.”

Based on 95 recent reviews of guests, the reviews indicated the highest level of the award by Hotels.com.

In addition to his duties as innkeeper, Glenn has been a

member of the Ludlow Rotary Club since 1996. He is a past-president of the LRC and a long-time leader of the famous Chili Cook-off sponsored by the club. Glenn is married to Donna and is the father of two sons and a daughter. His father was also a member of the LRC for many years.

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## How to write an effective letter to the editor

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The purpose of the letters to the editor page in newspapers is to give everyday people an opportunity to publish their views, comment on a recent article, respond to issues of the day, and possibly influence people to consider a topic in a new way. These reasons make writing a letter to the editor one of the easiest ways to get your message across to thousands of readers. But getting it published? That’s a more difficult accomplishment.

Roger Hirschberg, a Vermont dentist with a passion for politics, has managed to get 40 letters to the editor published in a short 3.5 years in esteemed newspapers as The New York Times, Washington Post, Boston Globe, and the Los Angeles Times. He recently published a uniquely formatted compilation of these letters, along with accompanying narrative titled, “Speaking Out in the Time of Trump – One Citizen Finds His Voice in Letters to the Editor.”

Neighborhood Connections will host a Zoom presentation on “How to Write an Effective Letter to the Editor” Thursday, March 18 at 3 p.m. If you would like to register, call 802-824-4343.

Neighborhood Connections is a nonprofit social services agency serving the nine mountain towns of south-central Vermont.



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# LOCAL HISTORY

BY RON PATCH

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

He can be reached at 802-374-0119 or email knotz69@gmail.com

## Firemen’s parades

A short chapter in our upcoming book, “History of Chester’s Fire Departments,” will cover firemen’s parades in Chester in the early 1900s. We have a few photos of both Yosemite firemen and the School Street firemen participating in these parades. I will include photos we have as well as the histories you see here, along with entries from our Yosemite ledger. You can see the parades were a full day and evening of entertainment. I wish I could have been there. They must have been fun.

**Sept. 22, 1905**  
“The concert and ball by the firemen next week Friday evening, September 29, will be held in the town hall, and the supper served in Rhoades dining room. Watch for large posters.

“Friday, Sept. 29, is the date for the firemen’s annual parade, field day and ball, and the committees are working hard to make the occasion worthy a good attendance. The boys have set the day earlier this year in order to have the weather more comfortable than usual. Watch for big posters giving full particulars.”

**Oct. 6, 1905, Firemen’s Day**  
“The program for the firemen’s day last week Friday was carried out in one of the most pleasant days of the season, and the usual good crowd got together soon after noon to witness the sports. First came the peg race, with five entries. First money was awarded to Duffy Spencer, second, second to A.T. Fish and third to John Young.

“The bike race was won by Sidney Farnsworth, first, Harold Ainley, second, and Lewis Richardson, third. The tug of war was between Chester and Andover, ten men per side, and was won by Andover. “Then came the baseball game between Springfield and Chester, which was

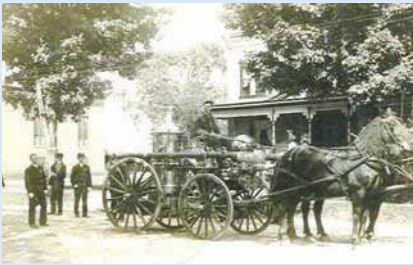
won by Springfield. Two prizes were offered, \$20 to the winner and \$10 to the losers. The game was the worst played of any one of the past and any of the past season, owing to the absence of three of Chester’s best men.

“In the evening the concert by the Chester orchestra and other local talent was given to a large house at the town hall, following by the ball, which was attended by about 80 couples. Saxtons River cornet band furnished music during the day.

“At noon a dinner was served to the firemen and band, being contributed by the village people.”

**Sept. 15, 1906**  
“The annual field day of the Chester fire department will be Sept. 21, watch for posters.”  
**Sept. 22, 1906**  
“The Firemen will have their sixteenth annual parade and inspection this Friday. The Grafton band will furnish music for the parade which Mr. Wooley will marshal. There will be a ball game in the afternoon between the fire companies, and ball with music by the Chester orchestra of seven pieces. H. M. Weeden, prompter. A turkey supper will be served in Thomas Storm’s restaurant.”

**Sept. 29, 1906**  
“The Firemen had an unusually beautiful day Friday for their parade, and everything passed off successfully. The parade started at nine o’clock with the Grafton Cornet band at the head. Grafton Company Aid No. 1 showed up with most of its members and with the steamer and hose cart; Yosemite company made a good showing, and the sound of the bell on the old hand engine brought to the



School Street steam-pumper, circa 1907, in front of what is now Sarah Vail’s office in Chester.

PHOTO PROVIDED

mind the days when our village was not guarded by the water power system, of which we are now so proud, nor did our town own the steamer that has stopped so many fire for us. This little engine when needed and responded with all its might.

“The ball game which took place in the afternoon between the two companies, was certainly excited and during the past baseball season there has not been such a good attendance nor so much noise and enthusiasm. Beard and Richardson were the battery from South Street, with Farr and Phelps for Depot Street. It looked during the first half of the game that South Street was being done brown, but they turned the tables in the seventh inning and won out by a score of 15-13. The Chester orchestra gave an hour’s concert at 8 o’clock and made a decided hit with the music they furnished for the dance afterward. Several of the number were demanded the third time. The march was led by Mr. and Mrs. L.A. Carpenter. A turkey supper was served by Thomas Storms in his restaurant.”

*This week’s old saying is from Henry: “You’ll be old a lot longer than you’ll be young.”*

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## An evening with Carolyn Finney

**GRAFTON, Vt.** – Join The Nature Museum Thursday, March 18 at 7 p.m. for “An Evening with Carolyn Finney,” the third program in their online Speaking of Nature series. Carolyn Finney, author, storyteller, professor of cultural geography, and former member of the U.S. National Parks Advisory Board, will be discussing her work on the relationship of diverse communities in environmental and nature-based organizations.

In her book “Black Faces, White Spaces: Reimagining the Relationship of African Ameri-

cans to the Great Outdoors,” Finney urges us to develop greater cultural competency within environmental organizations. She looks beyond the discourse of the environmental justice movement to examine how the natural environment has been understood, commodified, and represented by both White and Black Americans. Finney examines the many forces that have affected cultural understandings of the “great outdoors” and how these determine who should and can have access to natural spaces. Drawing on a variety of

sources from film, literature, and popular culture, and analyzing different historical moments, Finney, a dynamic storyteller, reveals the perceived and real ways in which nature and the environment are racialized in America. Looking toward the future, she also highlights the work of African Americans who are opening doors to greater participation in environmental and conservation concerns.

Learn more by visiting [www.nature-museum.org](http://www.nature-museum.org). Tickets for this program are on a sliding scale.

## Ultimate Presentation for Red Sox Nation

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – On Thursday, March 18 at 6 p.m., join the Springfield Town Library for an online presentation of “The Ultimate Presentation for Red Sox Nation” with author Martin “Marty” Gitlin.

Take a fun and enlightening journey through Boston Red Sox history with the author of the “Ultimate Boston Red Sox Time Machine Book.” This presentation features videos and

photographs of the greatest and most fascinating players, teams, events, and moments in franchise history.

The program also includes trivia questions for patrons to ponder and covers Sox history from the Royal Rooters, who launched Red Sox Nation, all the way to the four World Series championships and beyond. It will conclude with a question-and-answer period. Marty will

have autographed and personalized copies of his book available online following the program.

This event is free and open to the public. Contact Tracey at [stvtprograms@gmail.com](mailto:stvtprograms@gmail.com) or 802-885-3108 with any questions. Signup is required at [www.eventbrite.com/e/the-ultimate-presentation-for-red-sox-nation-tickets-128012981273](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-ultimate-presentation-for-red-sox-nation-tickets-128012981273).

The town of Springfield is sponsoring this event.

## An introduction to Grace Farm

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – An introduction to Grace Farm and its new CSA program will be held over Rockingham Library Zoom Thursday, March 18 at 7 p.m. In early 2019, Grace Mooney purchased her home and four acres of land in Athens, Vt. In 2020, she tilled up about half an acre of her backyard and installed a 50-by-14-foot caterpillar tunnel to help with season extension and summer tomatoes and peppers. She’s currently building the infrastructure for a small livestock operation with pastured pigs, meat chickens, and laying chickens.

“2021 will be my first year of running my own farm, and I can’t wait to work with my neighbors and friends to provide food for my amazing community,” says farmer Grace Mooney. This Rockingham Library program is the perfect opportunity

to learn more about Community Supported Agriculture, the bio-intensive low till method of vegetable farming, and a young woman’s passion for feeding her community.

This program is part of a series, “Resilient Communities: Libraries Respond to Climate Change,” at Rockingham Library, sponsored by a grant from the American Library Association.

To receive an invitation to this Zoom discussion, email [programming@rockinghamlibrary.org](mailto:programming@rockinghamlibrary.org) or call the library at 802-463-4270. Leave your phone number and email address. For those who do not have a computer, there is an alternative method of joining Zoom through a phone call. Please note that there might be a phone charge for this.

## St. Patrick’s Day Bake Sale

**LUDLOW, Vt.** – On Saturday, March 13, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sunday, March 14, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m., The Church of Annunciation will be hosting a St. Patrick’s Day bake sale. Come visit us at 7 Depot St. in Ludlow for Irish soda breads, teacakes, cookies, scones, and more. For more information, call 802-228-3286.



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opinion

COMMUNITY NEWS/OBITUARIES

Dear Editor,

I want to express my deepest appreciation to everyone who participated in Rockingham's Town Selectboard elections. It's been such a rough year on all of us. Pandemic fears and restrictions made voting in our town elections especially challenging – not to mention the brutal weather!

Nonetheless, the total vote wasn't a great deal lower than last year. I know all five of us on the

board this coming year will strive together to do our best to create the brightest possible future for Rockingham. Thank you again to everyone. To all those who gave their vote to me, thank you so much for your support.

Sincerely,  
Bonnie North,  
Rockingham Selectboard

Dear Editor,

We would like to thank the voters of Athens. This year was much different not having town meeting in person; but having Australian ballots instead, it did give a voice to all the voters that wanted to vote. We very much appreciate all of

your support. Thank you again.

Sincerely,  
Road Commissioner Matt Perry  
Selectboard member Janet Perry

Dear Editor,

The Chester Rod and Gun Club would like to thank the residents of Chester for voting to maintain tax exemption for our club so that we can continue to provide services to our community members.

The Chester Rod and Gun Club is a nonprofit organization, run by a board of volunteers. We have spent over a century teaching generations of Vermonters to enjoy the outdoors while hunting and fishing safely and respectfully. There are so many things that make Vermont and this community special, including our commitment to keeping the land open and productive, making sure streams and rivers are kept clean, and preserving our traditions of respecting and enjoying where we live.

Each year, the Chester Rod and Gun Club provides two or more scholarships to the Green Mountain Conservation Camp. For over 50 years, this program has been teaching our youth about forestry, ecology, botany, wildlife management, and outdoor skills. We also sponsor an annual youth fishing

derby at the Chester Reservoir that introduces and rewards our children to the virtues of patience and perseverance while enjoying a day outside.

In addition, the Chester Rod and Gun Club holds one of the longest standing safety records while teaching youth programs, classes for women, maintaining rifle and pistol ranges, and holding weekly skeet and trap sessions. The ranges are provided free of charge for training of law enforcement officers, and for our women and men in the military. In addition, we open the use of the ranges free to the residents of Chester from the third Saturday in October to the end of the calendar year.

We want to express our gratitude to our community for continuing to help us make these services possible.

Sincerely,  
Troy Rietta  
Chester Rod and Gun Club president

**Louise Schiffmacher, 1931-2021**

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – Louise Schiffmacher passed away Feb. 9, 2021 at Elmwood Center in Claremont, N.H., after a period of declining health. She was born July 9, 1931, in Monsey, N.Y., to Clarence and Florence (Vanderbeek) Blauvelt. Louise was married to the late Robert "Bob" Pelton for 25 years. They were parents of three children, Susan Goding (Chris), Donald Pelton (Donna), and Ellen Pelton. She later married Richard T. Schiffmacher, who passed away Aug. 20, 2006, and was buried in the Pinecrest Cemetery in Charlestown, N.H., where Louise will be buried also. They had 23 years together.

She is survived by her three children, six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Louise was employed by Springfield Hospital for 14 years, then Sunapee Real Estate, and her last employment was with Sullivan County Developmental Services. She was a longtime member of the Living Hope Fellowship in Rockingham, Vt., Charlestown, N.H. Senior Citizens, and the Red Hats. Her hobbies were oil painting, sewing, and adult coloring.

Arrangements are private. Fenton & Hennessey, 55 Westminster St., Bellows Falls, Vt., will be assisting.

**AAUW offers scholarships**

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. – The Brattleboro Branch of the American Association of University Women is again offering scholarships of up to \$1,000 each to qualified female candidates who are residents of Windham County. This year's scholarships will honor Sylvia (Hunter) Eaton and Dorothy Birge Keller, recently deceased AAUW Brattleboro members.

Both graduating high school seniors from area high schools, preparatory schools, or home schools and women continuing their higher education are eligible to apply. Applications will be judged on academic performance, community involvement, and financial need.

The applicant must be accepted or enrolled as an undergraduate student in a one-year certificate or two- or four-year accredited

college degree program for 2021-2022. Applicants must have been legal residents of Windham County for a minimum of two years.

Guidance counselors in area high schools have posters and application forms. They can also be obtained from area college financial aid offices or by contacting the AAUW scholarship committee at 802-490-2310.

Applications must be postmarked by Monday, March 22 and can be sent to AAUW Scholarship Committee, c/o Melanie Crosby, 41 Harmony Place Dr, Brattleboro, VT 05301.

Now in its 94th year, the Brattleboro branch is part of a national organization that advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

**NEFCU 2021 STEM scholarships**

REGION – New England Federal Credit Union is accepting applications for its 2021 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics scholarships. Three scholarships of \$3,000 each will be awarded.

To be eligible for NEFCU STEM scholarships, applicants must be New England Federal Credit Union members. In addition to NEFCU membership, applicants must be pursuing one of these fields of study: biological sciences, physical sciences, mathematical sciences, computer and information sciences, geosciences, engineering, technology areas associated with the preceding fields of study.

Scholarships will be awarded to applicants who best demonstrate commitments to their fields of study. Application forms will be

available online at [www.nefcu.com](http://www.nefcu.com), at any branch, or by calling 802-879-8790. Completed applications must be postmarked no later than April 30, 2021. The mailing address is Scholarship Committee, NEFCU, P.O. Box 527, Williston, VT 05495.

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](http://www.nefcu.com).

**Stuart M. Savel, 2021**

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. – Stuart Mark Savel of Brattleboro died peacefully March 1, 2021 at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, N.H., following unexpected complications from an elective heart catheterization. He was 72 years old.

Stuart was born in Newark, N.J., the son of Murray and Selma Savel, whom he dearly loved. Stuart and his younger sisters Caroline and Nancy grew up surrounded by a large, loving, extended Jewish family and community. Not particularly religious, Stuart remained a strong supporter of Judaism, Jewish history, philosophy, and culture his entire life.

He wasn't a big fan of formal schooling, but Stuart was a natural-born learner and teacher. He taught himself photography, automotive repair, chess, math, and science while growing up. He graduated from Columbia High School in South Orange, N.J. in 1967. He was an early student and teacher of computer science and technology. His first computer was from Radio Shack, and he pressed its buttons with the eraser end of a pencil. He skillfully and lovingly taught his daughter and grandchildren mathematics along with many, many life lessons.

Stuart attended the University of Wisconsin, the University of Massachusetts, and the New School in New York. He was a draft resister and peace activist and moved to Vermont after being indicted for draft evasion in Newark in 1968. He was thankful to the Vermonters serving on the draft boards of Putney and Westminster who let the draft die and left resisters alone. He graduated from Windham College in 1972 and taught philosophy there for semester or two.

Not wanting to "Jersey" Vermont, Stuart joined the back to the land movement. He remembered seeing other "long-hairs" across the Square in Bellows Falls and crossing the street to meet some local hippies thereby joining a lifelong community of like-minded friends and folks across southern Vermont. Stuart loved smoking marijuana. Stuart taught himself woodworking, furniture making, post-and-beam construction, and design. After injuring his back in vehicle accidents, he got a certificate in design from Harvard and attended Boston Architectural Center. He worked as an architectural designer for more than 20 years.

Introduced by mutual friends, he met soul mate and best friend Jean Anne Kiewel in 1976. After meeting, they rarely spent a night apart and were married for 42 years. Stuart was Jean's business, as well as life, partner. He enthusiastically supported and encouraged her law practice, especially her work against domestic and sexual violence and poverty, as well as legal work for friends and community.

Stuart found a special location in the woods of Chester, Vt., and built Jean and their daughter Ilana a magical craft mahogany and oak post-and-beam home with Gaudi-inspired braces and beams whimsically hand-carved by a friend. Stuart worked from his woodshop and art gallery on the green in Chester, and then his home office in Chester while being Ilana's after school caregiver. Loving Jean, and loving and parenting Ilana, and loving, teaching and helping raise their grandchildren, Abram and Lilian, were Stuart's greatest joys.

Stuart was a best friend to Ilana, son-in-law Amos, Abram and Lilian, too. Though often grandiose and sometimes stubborn, at his core he was calm and wise, a peacemaker and mediator. He is described as generous, humble, and highly intelligent in the tributes coming to the family. Many members of his family and community sought his support and counsel on a wide variety of subjects. He had a mischievous sense of humor. He was known for his joyful, infectious laugh. Stuart and Jean participated in a peaceful, loving, and supportive quarantine with each other and treasured their special time together. Stuart hugely



Stuart M. Savel, 2021. PHOTO PROVIDED

loved the parties and gatherings at the family home and was looking forward to being vaccinated so he could resume regular potlucks, parties, family dinners, and music festival attendance with his family and community. Jean nurtured him into becoming a music fan. He was especially that when the family and friends played the music. He loved kayaking, camping, skiing, and traveling with Jean and the family. His restored vintage Volkswagen camper was his pride and joy. He learned how to, and then taught, Ilana and a number of her classmates at Chester-Andover Elementary School, to downhill and cross-country ski while volunteering for the school ski program. He was looking forward to completing his heart rehabilitation so he could more fully participate in those activities again.

Stuart lived with severe back pain for many years and rarely complained. His therapy was smoking marijuana. After receiving his Parkinson's diagnosis in 2011, Stuart delved into learning about cannabis as medicine. Drawing from many sources, including a whole new community that he grew to love, he trained himself in optimal growing techniques as well as the best strains and applications for targeting and controlling his symptoms. His doctors were surprised at and supportive of his success. He became an expert artisanal breeder and grower and freely shared his knowledge and plants to help others. Stuart was a leader of the homegrown cannabis for pleasure, as well as medicine, movement. Stuart was very proud of his and Vermonters' recent legacy of legalization of our right to grow our own cannabis.

Stuart was recovering from Trump exhaustion at the time of his death. He followed politics avidly and had strong progressive opinions. Inspired first and foremost by his mother, then many other strong women in his life, Stuart was a feminist. He was thrilled when women were elected leaders of the Vermont Legislature and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez took leadership in the Texas freeze disaster recently. He predicted and hoped AOC is headed for the White House.

Stuart is survived by Jean Anne Kiewel, his wife; Ilana Jean Newton, his daughter; Amos Newton, his son-in-law whom he loved as a son; Abram Newton, his grandson; Lilian Newton, his granddaughter; Nancy Savel and Caroline Ehrlich, his sisters; Estelle Wasserman, his maternal aunt; D. Jean Kiewel, his mother-in-law; Donald Perlstein, Edward Kiewel, and James Kiewel, his brothers-in-law; Kim Ehrlich, Courtney Kiewel, Erin Kiewel, and Kirsty Fugat, his nieces; Sean Ehrlich, Benjamin Perlstein, Elliot Cook, and Mark Monahan, his nephews; Mollie Cook and Violet Cook, his grandnieces; many cousins; the extended Newton family; numerous close friends; his former home in Chester, several beautiful homes and buildings, furniture, and cabinetry around southern Vermont and beyond.

Jean and the family are forever grateful for the world-class respectful care provided by Stuart's medical team and the staff at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center recently and over the years. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. A celebration of Stuart's life and party will be held for Stuart's community when the weather permits and Covid eases. Donations in Stuart's honor and memory may be made to the Bread and Puppet Theater.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:** Subject to space. Must be kept under 400 words. Must include name and town for publication.



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**The Take a Break games will be back next week!**


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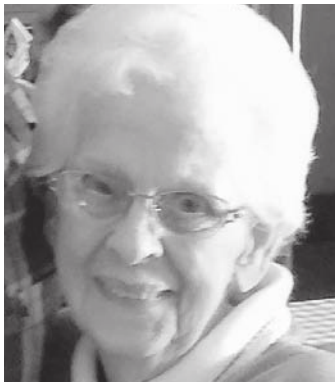
# obituaries

## Shirley R. Koledo, 1928-2021

**BOSCAWEN, N.H.** – Shirley R. Koledo, 92, passed away Wednesday evening, March 3, 2021 in Boscawen, N.H., where she had resided the past 20 years.

She was born Dec. 9, 1928 in Springfield, Vt., the daughter of Harold and Eva (Fowler) Ross. She attended Springfield schools and graduated from Springfield High School in 1946. On Nov. 5, 1949, she married John Koledo in Springfield. Sadly, he passed away Sept. 22, 1997 after 48 years of marriage.

Shirley was a bookkeeper at the former First National Bank in Springfield, Vt. She had also worked at Johnson & Dix Fuel Corporation and the former Bruce's Furniture in Springfield, Vt. She loved baking, knitting, bird watching, and spending time with her grandchildren. She was a volunteer at Springfield Hospital and later at Concord Hospital in Concord, N.H.



**Shirley R. Koledo, 1928-2021.**  
PHOTO PROVIDED

She is survived by her daughter Cheryl Saltmarsh and her husband Craig of Boscawen, N.H.; her grandchildren Carter, Cole, and Charlie Saltmarsh; and several nieces and nephews.

A private graveside service will be held in the spring in Oakland Cemetery in Springfield. Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt., is assisting with arrangements.

## Norma J. Lasonde, 1938-2021

**N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – Norma Jean (Patch) Lasonde, 82, of North Springfield, Vt., passed away peacefully Feb. 26, 2021 after a battle with Parkinson's disease.

Norma was born Aug. 11, 1938, to Arnold and June (Emery) Patch of Springfield, Vt. In high school, she had a horse she loved to ride and worked summers at a farm. After graduating from Chester High School in 1956, she attended Mount Ida College where she studied journalism.

Norma worked at the Vermont National Bank in Bellows Falls, Vt., where she had a long career in banking. She began as a bank teller and rose to branch manager during her many years at the Vermont National Bank.

Norma married Louis Lasonde in 1959 and had a daughter, Luann. Norma and Louis called Bellows Falls home until they retired and moved to Saxtons River, Vt., to enjoy their golden years together.

Norma had many interests. She

loved animals, gardening, local history, reading, music, braiding rugs, cross stitch, collecting Bellows Falls memorabilia, and bird watching. She was a longtime member of the Friends of the Rockingham Free Public Library and a supporter of the SPCA and Humane Society. She enjoyed visiting the Jenne Farm in Reading, Vt., and trips to Newport, R.I., with friends and family.

Norma was predeceased by her parents, her husband, and her nephew Kevin Patch. She is survived by her sisters Cheryl Patch and Amber Patch-Drotar; Amber's sons Sean, Paul, and Evan Vidulich; her brother Brian Patch and his son Jeffrey Patch; her brother Ronald Patch and his son Sean Patch and daughter Carrie Patch Jewell; her daughter Luann Preddy, son-in-law Joe Preddy; and grandchildren Jake Preddy and Lauren Preddy.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Humane Society in memory of Norma.

## Samuel K. Nocerino, 1949-2021

**PROCTORSVILLE, Vt.** – Samuel Kirk Nocerino, 71, died Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at the Jack Byrne Center at DHMC in Lebanon, N.H. Sam was born June 2, 1949, in Queens, N.Y., a son of John and Jane (Fountain) Nocerino. He grew up in Stamford, Conn. and graduated from Stamford High School, Class of 1967.

Sam honorably served his country during the Vietnam War as a cook in the Army. During this time, his love for cooking grew. He used his knowledge of the kitchen and worked in many capacities in the hospitality business working at various institutions over the years. Sam was married to Linda Dalzell in 2003 in Woodbridge, Conn. They later moved to Proctorsville where he worked at Shaw's in the delicatessen before retiring. After Linda retired in 2016, they bought a recreational vehicle and traveled across the United States.

Sam loved to cook and was

known to his friends as the Italian chef. He was a proud member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and Up with People. He was a devout fan of the New York Mets.

He is survived by his beloved wife Linda; two sons Samuel Nocerino and his wife Illeana of Florida and John Nocerino of Detroit, Mich.; a brother Ernest Nocerino of Stafford Springs, Conn.; and three stepchildren Janet Domenico of Raleigh, N.C., Gary Stevens of Wendell, N.C., and Alexandra Hudson of Las Vegas, Nev.

Knight Funeral Home in Windsor assisted with arrangements. Condolences may be expressed to Sam's family in an online guestbook at [www.knightfuneralhomes.com](http://www.knightfuneralhomes.com).

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Cardio Vascular Critical Care Unit, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, NH 03756.

## Gloria J. Snide, 1951-2021

**CHESTER, Vt.** – Gloria J. Snide, 69, passed away at her home Monday morning, March 1, 2021 surrounded by her loving family. She was born Oct. 6, 1951 in Springfield, Vt., the daughter of Alice Westover. She attended Springfield schools and graduated from Springfield High School.

On Jan. 14, 1978, Gloria married Gordon C. Snide Jr. in Springfield, Vt. Gloria was employed as a nurse's aide at the Springfield Health & Rehab Center in Springfield, Vt., for over 20 years, retiring in 2010.

She enjoyed gardening, having a large garden, and selling vegetables with her husband. She also enjoyed mowing the lawn with the riding mower, reading, and doing puzzles.

She is survived by her husband Gordon of Chester, daughter Ann Marie Nadeau of Springfield, two grandchildren Damian and Maria, and by many nieces, nephews, and cousins, and one sister by choice Janet Colbert.



**Gloria J. Snide, 1951-2021.**  
PHOTO PROVIDED

A graveside service will be held in the spring at the North Street Cemetery in Chester, Vt., and will be announced at that time. Memorial contributions may be made to American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22478, Oklahoma City, OK 73123 or at [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).

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

## Angus R. Johnson, 1959-2021

**SHARON, Vt.** – Angus “Gus” Roy Johnson, 61, of Sharon, Vt. passed away Feb. 22, 2021 after a four-year battle with multiple myeloma. Angus was born Dec. 16, 1959 in Springfield, Vt. He spent his early years in Vermont until his mother, Katherine Johnson, and his siblings Duncan and Jenny moved to Rockport, Mass. Angus moved back to Vermont in his later teen years. He lived with the Moore's in Sharon, Vt. and later became a live-in property caretaker for many years in Sharon.

Angus worked many jobs and explored many places throughout his life. In the mid-1970s to the early '80s, he spent time hitchhiking and exploring California, Canada, Utah, and Wyoming.

In the mid-'80s, Angus was a warehouseman for P&C Foods in White River Junction, Vt. He later moved to Florida where he worked for a tropical fish company. Upon his return to the Upper Valley, Angus met with his good friend, Pete Lecuyer, who helped find him a job with C&S Wholesale Grocers and later a job at White River Paper, now Swish White River.



**Angus R. Johnson, 1959-2021.**  
PHOTO PROVIDED

Angus was well known to many people of differing social circles. His friendly and outgoing nature, along with his quick-witted sayings and a genuine heart of gold and concern for others, endeared him to many. Angus's love of travel blended with his duties as truck driver's assistant and guide, where he would meet and greet people throughout New England and upstate New York. His generosity was well known, and Angus was noted for bringing gifts and sharing whatever he might have with others.

Angus never owned a television or computer; instead his interests were rooted in the natural world that were instilled in him from his father, Donald Johnson. Like his father, Angus was a voracious reader. He was a self-taught naturalist with an encyclopedic knowledge of nature. He loved exploring the woodlands and mountains of Vermont. He was an expert at identifying flora and fauna. Angus spent many hours with his nephews teaching them the wonders of the outdoors. He also kept tropical fish for many years until the later stages of his illness.

Angus was quite adept at iden-

tifying and collecting marbles and local antique bottles. He also had amassed an impressive stone collection from all his many walks including heart-shaped stones and a very unique “beating” heart stone.

Angus is survived by his brother Duncan Johnson of Bellows Falls, Vt., sister Jenny Upham (Brad) and nephews Davious and John of East Lansing, Mich., sister Holly Moore (Blaine) of Sharon, Vt. and nephews Jason and Shane Moore, sister Beth Thompson of East Corinth, Vt. and nephews Ricky and Roy Thompson, brother Douglas Johnson (Beverly) of South Jordan, Utah, and nephews Todd and Trevor Johnson, and brother Ian Johnson, three great-nieces (Evelyn Johnson, Sienna Moore, and Molly Thompson), three great-nephews (Kaden Moore, Hunter Thompson, and Jake Thompson), as well as many good friends including his friend for decades Chris Gramling (partner Diane Laware) of Sharon, Vt. He was predeceased by his mother Katherine Ray Johnson and his father Donald Douglas Johnson.

A funeral is planned for late spring. Please check the Boardway & Cilley Funeral Home in Chelsea, Vt. website for details, [www.boardwayandcilley.com](http://www.boardwayandcilley.com). A private message of sympathy for the family can be shared at [www.boardwayandcilley.com](http://www.boardwayandcilley.com).

The family is especially grateful for the excellent hospice care provided by Barbara and Peter Lecuyer at their home in White River Junction, Vt. The Lecuyers allowed Angus to live out his last months on earth in a warm and inviting atmosphere with plenty of opportunities to meet with family and his good friends.

## James R. Perry Sr., 1943-2021

**CHESTER, Vt.** – James “Jim” Robert Perry Sr., 77, of Chester, died Feb. 6, 2021 after a brief battle with cancer. He was born March 26, 1943 in Glens Falls, N.Y., but lived in Chester, Vt. for most of his life and considered it his home.

Jim was an honest, hardworking, and dedicated family man. You could always count on him to lend a hand and were blessed if he called you “friend” or considered you to be family.

He could be seen rolling through the streets of Chester, making the roads safe during his tenure with the Highway Department. He also dedicated years to the Chester Water Treatment Plant. When enjoying free time, he loved roaming the hills and valleys looking for deer or a good fishing spot, brewing his own beer, and working around his home while bird watching. He was very creative – there wasn't anything he couldn't fabricate to get a project done. His talents were many, and days with us were too few. To say he will be missed is an understatement beyond measure.

He is survived by his beloved wife Paula (Crowson); children Angela Rickert, James R. Perry Jr.



**James R. Perry Sr., 1943-2021.**  
PHOTO PROVIDED

(Laurie), Janet Nelson, and Keri Damone (James); as well as his sister Jean Douglas and half-brother Leon Parker. His loving grandchildren include Zachary Stebbins (Shaena), Megan Rowe (Dalton), Casey Stratton (Jacob), James R. Perry III, Brandon Perry, Jenna Nelson, Jordyn Nelson, James Damone, and Hannah Damone as well as many great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

Jim was predeceased by his mother Grace (Litts) and her husband Fred (Parker).

No services are planned at this time.

## Adeline F. Barker, 1938-2021

**S. LONDONDERRY, Vt.** – Adeline Flora Barker, formerly of Smith Haven Lane, died peacefully Saturday, Feb. 20, 2021, at the Gill Home in Ludlow. She was born July 17, 1938 in Oneida, N.Y., the youngest daughter of Ralph and Ruth (Rowley) Soper. Her father was a Seventh Day Baptist minister and moved the family to Arkansas when Addy was a child.

While Addy was attending nursing school in Little Rock, she met the love of her life, Richard Barker from Londonderry, who was in the Air Force. They were married Feb. 15, 1959. After Dick's tour in Marquette, Mich., they and their daughter, Andrea, returned to Londonderry.

Addy was the first employee (receptionist) of Mountain Valley Medical Clinic, retiring 31 years later in 2006 as office manager. She was a member of the Eastern Star (Jamaica Order) and Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad. She was very active with her church family from the First Baptist Church in South Londonderry and had been their beloved organist.

Adeline is survived by her two daughters, Andrea Foster of Hardwick, Vt. and Tammy Sisson of Missouri; two brothers, Harley



**Adeline F. Barker, 1938-2021.**  
PHOTO PROVIDED

Soper of Beaumont, Texas and Herbert Soper of Winston-Salem, N.C.; five grandchildren, Arianna Dawley Anton, Nicole Foster, Allison Foster, Collin Moulton, and George Moulton; and three great-grandchildren, Madelyn and Riley Anton, and Azailya L'Esperance; sister-in-law Betty Barker; and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband and six siblings.

There will be a celebration of life at a later date. The Fenton & Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster St., Bellows Falls, Vt., is assisting with the arrangements. The family would like to thank all who cared for Addy.

## Richard A. Neilsen Sr., 1934-2021

**WALPOLE, N.H.** – Richard A. “Dick” Neilsen Sr., 86, of Keene, N.H. and a former well-known longtime resident of the Walpole, N.H. community, passed away Saturday, Feb. 27, 2021 at the Pheasant Wood Care Center in Peterborough, N.H.

His parents, Annette (Gosselin) and Laurence M. Neilsen Sr., welcomed their son into the world Dec. 30, 1934, in Springfield, Vt. Dick grew up in Springfield and was a graduate of Springfield High School.

He proudly served his country in the United States Marine Corp.

Dick attended Keene Teachers College and went on to earn his Master in Education from the University of New Hampshire. He spent his professional career in the education system, starting as a teacher in Hinsdale, N.H., before becoming a successful and well-respected principal at the Villas School in Alstead, N.H.



**Richard A. Neilsen Sr., 1934-2021.**  
PHOTO PROVIDED

An active member of his community serving others in need, Richard was a longtime member of the Walpole Lions Club. A man of great faith, Richard was a parishioner at St. Joseph Parish in Walpole, serving as Eucharistic minister and lecture at the Sunday masses.

Having a wonderful voice, Richard was a longtime member of the Cheshiremen Barbershop Chorus in Keene, providing enjoyment to many as a member of the chorus as well as several quartets.

He enjoyed tennis and golfing, and was a member of the Hooper Golf Club in Walpole. Well-known as an antique car enthusiast, Richard could be seen driving around town in his classic 1966 Mustang, participating in many of the local parades and events. In his earlier years, he was a coach with the Walpole Baseball Little League. He also taught driver's education and was never hesitant to offer loving criticism to his own children's driving skills long after they had their driver's license.

Another one of Dick's passions was traveling. He and his wife, Jane, took many cruises, trips

around the U.S. and around the world. Many of their vacations were to attend Barbershop Chorus conventions and competitions.

He will be greatly missed by many in his community; however more so by his beloved family: his children Richard A. Neilsen Jr. and his wife Mellony of Leland, N.C., Jason E. Neilsen and his wife Diane of Marlborough, N.H., Kristin M. Boule and her husband John of Penacook, N.H., Peter C. Neilsen and his partner Bonnie Sargent of Penacook; his grandchildren Ian, Jason, Catie, Aiden, Lizzy, Emalie, Lexi; his great-grandchildren Reynald IV, Mila, Kingsley; and many nieces, nephews, and extended family members including the LeDrew and Neilsen families in Charlestown, N.H. Richard was predeceased by his wife of 45 years, Jane I. (Gonyou) Neilsen, May 4, 2007; two brothers Laurence M. Neilsen Jr. and Alfred “Skip” Neilsen; and a sister Jean LeDrew.

A mass of Christian burial was celebrated Friday, March 5, 2021 in St. Peter's Church in North Walpole, N.H. Burial followed in St. Peter's Cemetery in Drewsville, N.H. In lieu of flowers, for those who wish, donations may be made in Mr. Neilsen's memory to the National Barbershop Harmony Society, 110 7th Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37203, or by going online to [www.barbershop.org](http://www.barbershop.org).

To offer online condolences to the family or to share special memories, please visit [www.fletcherfuneralhome.com](http://www.fletcherfuneralhome.com).

**OBITUARIES:**  
A basic 200-word obituary is \$50, and \$0.20 per word thereafter. A black and white photo is an additional \$10. Email to [editor@vermontjournal.com](mailto:editor@vermontjournal.com) by Monday at 12 p.m.

### Rick Strobl

#### Income Tax Preparation

Affordable • Experienced • Accurate • Personal Attention  
Direct Deposit  
Now Accepting All Major Credit Cards

Specializing in: “Earned Income Credit” “Self Employed”  
“Rental Properties” “Small Businesses”

**Call for Appointment: 802-299-5121**  
North Springfield, Vt      Weathersfield, Vt

## David Chaves EXCAVATING

*Family Owned & Operated Since 1980*

**Complete Site Work**  
From Clearing to Finish  
Grading, Roads, Foundations  
Septics & Drainage Problems

**Specializing In**  
Equine Land Development & Ponds

**802-824-3140**  
Londonderry, VT

*Sculpting your piece of Vermont to fit your Dreams!*



calendar

LEGAL NOTICES/HELP WANTED

**Chester-Andover Elementary School  
KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION**

Chester-Andover Elementary School has begun the process of registration for children who will be eligible for Kindergarten for the 2021/2022 school year. Children must be 5 years old on or before August 31, 2021.

Please contact the school office at 875-6832 or kim.leonard@trs.u.org to let us know your child will be attending.

Spring Hill Construction  
Saxtons River, VT 802-376-2027

**Full time Positions Available:  
Carpenters and Carpenters helpers**

Qualifications required:  
Dependable, Quality minded, Hard working,  
Willingness to learn/improve skills of the trade,  
Drivers license and reliable transportation

Pay and benefits commensurate with experience  
Serious applicants only need apply

Please email questions, qualifications, and Resume  
to kevin@springhillvt.com



**Town of Westminster**  
P.O. BOX 147 WESTMINSTER, VT 05158  
Tel. 802-722- 4524 Fax 802-722-9816

**DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD (DRB)  
WESTMINSTER TOWN HALL**  
**Westminster, Vermont**  
**Legal Notice**


The Westminster Development Review Board will meet at 6:30 pm on Monday, April 5, 2021 to consider the following:

**Application #21-43 (Ranney Dairy Farm, LLC – Peter Shumlin (Owner & Applicant))** – property located at 700 Westminster West Road. The Applicant is requesting a Minor Subdivision to create two lots from the 161.6 acre farm. This Application will be reviewed under Section 311 Site Plan Review, and Section 447 Rural Residential District Zone; and Article VIII Subdivision of Land of the adopted 2017 Zoning Bylaws.

**Application #21-44 (Jerry Hiam (Applicant) for Eleanor Riley (Owner ))** – property located at 78 Dorsch Hill Road. The Applicant is requesting a Change of Use creating from the two-car garage, a one-car garage with stairs leading to a second floor apartment created by raising the original roof. This Application will be reviewed under Section 215 Zoning Permit Procedure; Section 311 Site Plan Review, and Section 446 Residential District Zone of the adopted 2017 Zoning Bylaws.

Participation in the proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to make any subsequent appeals.

The application is available for review in the Westminster Town Hall, 3651 US Route 5 Westminster, Vermont 05158, Monday – Friday from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm.



**TOWN OF WESTMINSTER**  
P.O. BOX 147 WESTMINSTER, VT 05158  
Tel. 802-722-4255 Fax 802-722-9816

**TOWN OF WESTMINSTER, VT**  
**Highway Road Crew Employment Opportunity**

The Town of Westminster is seeking a qualified Highway Road Crew member who will primarily be responsible for the maintenance and repair of the Town Highway system. The Highway Crew member will operate equipment and provide labor to facilitate highway grading, trucking, snow plowing, sanding highways, brush clearing, road repair, light building and facility maintenance, and maintenance of the highway equipment.

The successful applicant shall possess a current and valid Vermont Commercial Driver's License (CDL), Class A and/or Class B license, a High School Diploma, GED, or similar equivalent education.

This is an hourly position that will be commensurate with experience. The Town of Westminster offers an excellent fringe benefit package to all of its employees.

An extensive employment description can be requested by calling the Town Hall. The application is located on the Town of Westminster's website at [www.westminster-vt.org](http://www.westminster-vt.org), and/or obtained by emailing [Assistant@westminstervt.org](mailto:Assistant@westminstervt.org), attention Highway Road Crew Employment Application, or at the Town Offices.

To apply for this position, please complete the employment application and mail to:

Town of Westminster  
P.O. Box 147  
Westminster, VT 05158  
Attn: Highway Road Crew Employment Application

Applications for this position are due no later than **March 26, 2021 by 4:00 pm.**

The Town of Westminster is an equal opportunity employer. It is the policy of this municipality to provide equal employment opportunity to all applicants and employees without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, place of birth, age, disability, HIV status, or other status protected by state or federal law.

**MARCH 11 –**  
LONDONDERRY, Vt. – On Friday, March 11 at 4 p.m., join South Londonderry Free Library for “Preparing for Financial Longevity” with Rhonda Lathrop as part of the Spring Wellness in our Community programming. Rhonda P. Lathrop is a financial

advisor with Merrill, Bank of America. Her role is to help clients visualize, articulate, and pursue their financial and lifestyle goals. Please register with Rhonda in advance at [Rhonda.P.Lathrop@ML.com](mailto:Rhonda.P.Lathrop@ML.com) or 802-362-0985. There is no cost to participate, but donations are welcome.

**Hodgkins & Sons  
NOW HIRING  
Truck Driver Needed**

Hodgkins & Sons, Inc. has an immediate opening for a full-time CDL Truck Driver Class A preferred. Must be willing to do different phases of construction work and be a team player. Hodgkins & Sons offers full benefits.


Call 802-463-4800 for an application or stop by our Walpole, NH office.

**In Search Of**

The Town of Charlestown, NH is scheduling auctions of the following properties and is in search of Executor/Executrix of Estate, Heirs, or other related parties regarding the following properties:

33 Morways St –  
former owner Robert W. Bryant (of Athens, VT)  
150 Wetherby Road –  
former owner Frederick L. Poisson, Sr  
4 Connecticut River Park –  
former owner Maryann Lacroix-Thornton  
564 Morningside Lane – former owner Gail G. Crawford  
77 Cobb Road – former owner Timothy R. Hicks

If you are related to the above individuals or know someone who may have rights to these properties, please contact the; Office of the Selectboard, Town of Charlestown, 233 Main Street, PO Box 385, Charlestown, NH 03603. Please contact the Selectboard Office as soon as possible, property auctions are scheduled for Saturday, May 1, 2021.



**Whitney Blake is continually growing and looking for associates to join our team.**  
**Check us out!**

**We have a variety of opportunities including:**

- Assembly Operator
- Extrusion Machine Operator
- Facilities & Equipment Manager
- Human Resources Generalist
- Manufacturing Buyer

**To apply send resume to [humanresources@wblake.com](mailto:humanresources@wblake.com)**  
9 Lovell Drive, Bellows Falls, VT 05101  
<https://wblake.com/company/careers/>

**All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin.**



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<https://wblake.com/company/careers/>

**All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin.**

**TOWN OF LUDLOW, VERMONT**  
**POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

**The Select Board for the Town of Ludlow, VT invites applications for the following positions for FY 2022:**

**All terms are one year except where noted.**  
Black River Senior Center Representative  
Council on Aging/Senior Solutions Representative  
Deputy Health Officer (paid position)  
Development Review Board (DRB):  
One, two-year term (appoint in July)  
Development Review Board (DRB):  
Three, one-year terms (appoint in July)  
Emergency Management Director  
Emergency Management Assistant  
Fence Viewers (3 positions)  
Pound Keeper/Animal Control Officer (paid position)  
Recreation Committee: One, 3-year term  
Recreation Committee: Three, 1-year terms  
Mount Ascutney Regional Planning Commission - Representative  
Mount Ascutney Regional Planning Commission - Alternate  
Mount Ascutney Transportation Advisory Committee - Representative  
Mount Ascutney Transportation Advisory Committee - Alternate  
Surveyor of Wood & Lumber  
Tree Warden  
Deputy Tree Warden  
Weigher of Coal

All interested parties should submit a letter of interest by mail or email no later than March 23, 2021 to Scott Murphy, Municipal Manager, email [village@tds.net](mailto:village@tds.net) or call the Municipal Office at 228-2841. Appointments will be made at the Ludlow Select Board's regular meeting in April. The Town of Ludlow is an equal opportunity employer.

Town of Ludlow  
PO Box 359  
Ludlow, VT 05149

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PO Box 359  
Ludlow, VT 05149

**MARCH 13-14 –**  
LUDLOW, Vt. – On Saturday, March 13, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sunday, March 14, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m., The Church of Annunciation will be hosting a St. Patrick's Day bake sale. Come visit us at 7 Depot St. in Ludlow for Irish soda breads, teacakes, cookies, scones, and more. For more information, call 802-228-3286.

**MARCH 15 –**  
REGION – Lori Wright

from DG Bodyworks will be offering a four-week online workshop, “Letting Go and Decluttering Your Life,” designed to de-clutter your life, literally and metaphorically. The sessions will be held Mondays, March 15, 22, 29 and April 5 at 5:30 p.m. and will help you explore what you are holding onto and can let go of to move forward – letting go of what you no longer need and freeing up space for new possibilities. Contact Lori at [loriwright163@gmail.com](mailto:loriwright163@gmail.com) or call 603-401-8123 to register.

**TOWN OF WESTON NOTICE OF  
SITE PLAN REVIEW HEARING**

The Kinhaven Music School has submitted an application for a site plan review for their campus on Lawrence Hill Rd in the town of Weston Vt. The Planning Commission will hold a hearing on this application on 4/5/2021 at 7:00 PM on Zoom

Those interested in seeing the application or attending the online meeting should email the Zoning Administrator at [zoning@westonvt.org](mailto:zoning@westonvt.org).

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §§ 4464(a)(1)(C) and 4471(a), participation in this local proceeding is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

**NOTICE  
ZONING BOARD OF ADJUST  
OF THE VILLAGE DISTRICT OF  
NORTH WALPOLE, NH**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A REHEARING CONCERNING ARTICLE VI SECTION B OF THE ZONING ORDINANCES, WILL BE HELD AT NORTH WALPOLE VILLAGE HALL AT 5:00 PM ON MARCH 22, 2021, AT 70 CHURCH STREET, NORTH WALPOLE, NH. CONCERNING A REQUEST BY MR. GREGORY GAY.

APPLICANT PROPOSES TO REQUEST A VARIANCE TO BUILD AN OFFICE BUILDING AT 8 LEN-TEX LANE, NORTH WALPOLE, NH IN THE INDUSTRIAL ZONE.

SIGNED: SHANE M. LAKE, CHAIRPERSON, NW ZBA

**TOWN OF LONDONDERRY VERMONT  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Londonderry Development Review Board will meet at 5:30 PM on Wednesday 03/17/2021, to hold a public hearing for an application from Redesign Construction Inc. of Londonderry, to change a two-family home at 2430 Middletown Rd into an apartment and an office.

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. Sections 4464(a)(1)(c) and 4471(a), participation in the local proceedings is a prerequisite to take any subsequent appeal. Application materials are available by emailing the town's Zoning Administrator at [zoningadmin@londonderryvt.org](mailto:zoningadmin@londonderryvt.org).

\*Due to the ongoing COVID 19 health emergency, the meeting will be held through the means of remote electronic access as permitted under act 92, signed into law by Vt. Governor Scott on March 30, 2020. Notice of this will be provided at the time of legal posting of the meeting agenda, which will take place at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Please check the town's website-[www.londonderryvt.org](http://www.londonderryvt.org), or contact the Zoning Administrator prior to the meeting on how to participate remotely by video or telephone.

**ANIMAL LICENSE NOTICE**

Animal Licenses are now available at the Town Clerk's Office. All dogs and wolf-hybrids six months or over must be licensed by April 1 each year and wear a collar and tag at all times. A dog or wolf-hybrid without a tag is presumed to be unlicensed and is not protected by law. A tag must not be used on any dog or wolf-hybrid other than the dog or wolf-hybrid in the license bearing the corresponding number.

**HOW TO REGISTER YOUR DOG WHILE TOWN OFFICE IS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC DURING COVID-19**

Licensing your dog can be done through the mail, email or one of two mail slots at Town Hall. Mail slots are located in the lower level white door that faces Main Street and in the second level brown door at the top of the outside stairs. First check on your dog's rabies certification indicated on last year's license or by calling the town clerk's office at 802-885-2104 or email the town clerk at [tosclerk@vermontel.net](mailto:tosclerk@vermontel.net) or assistant town clerk at [tosasstclerk@vermontel.net](mailto:tosasstclerk@vermontel.net). New dogs and dogs with expired rabies certificates will require you to provide us with a rabies certificate valid through April 1, 2021.

Fee for fixed dogs is \$14.00  
Fee for dogs that are not fixed is \$18.00

Once we receive payment (cash or check payable to the Town of Springfield) and an updated rabies certificate, if needed, either through the mail or in one of our mail slots, we will mail to you your dog(s) tag(s) and the two-part license with a request that you sign one half and keep it for your files and sign the other half and return it to us, in the stamped envelope provided, either by mail or door mail slot.

Dogs licensed after April 1, 2021 will be assessed a late fee.

Barbara A. Courchesne  
Town Clerk, CVC  
96 Main Street  
Springfield, VT 05156

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**MARCH 17 –**  
CHESTER, Vt. – On Wednesday, March 17, the Chester American Legion Post 67 will serve a St. Patrick's Day dinner of corned beef and cabbage from 12 p.m. until all the food is gone. To-go dinners will be available at the door. Per the governor's orders, there will be limited seating for dining at the Legion. Masks are required. Call 802-875-6009.

**MARCH 18 –**  
GRAFTON, Vt. – Join The Nature Museum Thursday, March 18 at 7 p.m. for “An Evening With Carolyn Finney,” the third program in their online Speaking of Nature series. Carolyn Finney, author, storyteller, professor of cultural geography, and former member of the U.S. National Parks Advisory Board, will be discussing her work on the relationship of diverse communities in environmental and nature-based organizations. For more information, go to [www.nature-museum.org](http://www.nature-museum.org).

**MARCH 18 –**  
LONDONDERRY, Vt. – The Londonderry Conservation Commission will host a virtual event featuring Chris Schadler of Project Coyote Thursday, March 18 at 7 p.m. The presentation is titled “What's Up With Those Wily Coyotes?” with a question and answer session afterwards. More information about Chris may be found at [www.projectcoyote.org/about/chris-schadler](http://www.projectcoyote.org/about/chris-schadler). Zoom login may be found at [www.tinyurl.com/Zoom-LCC](http://www.tinyurl.com/Zoom-LCC).

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt. –** On Thursday, March 18 at 6 p.m., join the Springfield Town Library for an online presentation of “The Ultimate Presentation for Red Sox Nation” with author Martin “Marty” Gilling. Take a fun journey through Red Sox history. Marty will have autographed copies of his book available online following the program. Contact Tracey at [slvtprograms@gmail.com](mailto:slvtprograms@gmail.com) or 802-885-3108 with any questions. Sign up at [www.eventbrite.com/e/the-ultimate-presentation-for-red-sox-nation-tickets-128012981273](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-ultimate-presentation-for-red-sox-nation-tickets-128012981273). Sponsored by town of Springfield.

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**MARCH 18 –**  
LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Roger Hirschberg has managed to get 40 letters to the editor published in esteemed newspapers as The New York Times, Washington Post, Boston Globe, and the Los Angeles Times. Neighborhood Connections will host a Zoom presentation on “How to Write an Effective Letter to the Editor” Thursday, March 18 at 3 p.m. If you would like to register, call 802-824-4343.

**WEDNESDAYS –**  
REGION – Lori Wright from DG Bodyworks is offering a 45-minute slow flow yoga class via Zoom Wednesdays at 5 p.m. for all levels to improve flexibility and strength, reduce stress, and bring balance. Choose to attend the class live or watch the recorded session at any time during the week at your own perfect time. Contact Lori at [loriwright163@gmail.com](mailto:loriwright163@gmail.com) or call 603-401-8123 to register.

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# Health & Wellness

Physical • Nutritional • Spiritual • Emotional • Intellectual • Environmental • Social

## The eyes are the windows to your health

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – An eye exam is so much more than just a checkup for glasses and contact lenses. During your visit, your eye doctor is looking for signs of numerous conditions that may not only affect the eyes but tell a larger story about your overall systemic health. Your doctor will review your medical history, check your

visual acuity, evaluate the surface of the eyes, and perform a dilated exam to observe the structures inside the eyes. Some conditions your eye doctor can detect in a standard comprehensive eye exam include diabetes, high blood pressure, glaucoma, cataracts, dry eye syndrome, macular degeneration, liver disease, brain

tumors, autoimmune disease, Multiple Sclerosis, cancer, and stroke. Adults over 40 and school-age children should have their eyes checked annually. Prevention and early detection are key to healthy outcomes.

Article written by Mercedes Smith, O.D., Springfield Family Eyecare, Springfield, Vt.

**Mercedes Smith, OD**

**Your sight is our vision!**  
**802-885-4190** 2 Summer St. Springfield, VT

SPRINGFIELD FAMILY EYECARE

**To manage anxiety, fear, pain, and stress, USE YOUR OUTBREATH—NOT DRUGS.**

Foreword by Mike Ramsay, MD  
Chairman, Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Management  
Baylor University Medical Center

**JUST BREATHE OUT**  
Using Your Breath to Create a New, Healthier You

**BETSY THOMASON, BA, RRT**

JUST BREATHE OUT is available at:

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## Spring wellness to support South Londonderry Free Library

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – From March through May, there will be wellness programming to benefit South Londonderry Free Library. Please register for sessions in advance via email or phone call to presenter – contact information is listed below. Details and instructions for virtual presentation will then be provided. There is no cost to participate, but donations to the South Londonderry

Library are always welcome. **Wellness programming schedule:**

- March 11, 4-4:50 p.m., “Preparing for Financial Longevity” by Rhonda Lathrop
- March 20, 11-11:45 a.m., “Kitchen Cupboard Medicine” by Lini Mazumdar and Helena Wu
- March 24, 4:30-5:10 p.m., “Vocalizing for Optimal Health” by Bidi Dworkin
- April 17, 11-11:45 a.m., “Spring Tonics – How find, use and make them” by Lini and Helena
- April 21, 4:30-5:10 p.m., “Vocalizing for Optimal Health” by Bidi Dworkin
- April 22, 4-4:50 p.m., “Are you Financially Fit? Purchasing your first home?” by Rhonda Lathrop
- May 8, 11-11:45 a.m., “Growing a Wellness Garden” by Lini and Helena
- May 19, 4:30-5:10 p.m., “Vocalizing for Optimal Health” by Bidi Dworkin
- May 20, 4-4:50 p.m., “Protecting your wealth from health care costs” by Rhonda Lathrop

**Lini Mazumdar** is an Ayurvedic nutrition counselor

and a certified herbalist. Lini lives on Anjali Farm in South Londonderry, Vt., where she grows wild-craft medicinal plants to make a line of herbal products called Lotus Moon Medicinals. Contact LiniMazumdar@yahoo.com or 802-824-4658.

**Helena Wu** is an herbalist, flower essence and Reiki practitioner, organic gardener, and retired homebirth midwife. She has been teaching, growing herbs, and making remedies for over 30 years. Contact MamaWu@MamaWusgoodmedicine.com or 802-824-9950.

**Bidi Dworkin** is a somatic voice work teacher and singer who lives in South Londonderry. The benefits of ongoing vocal practice are infinite! Contact Bidi.Dworkin@gmail.com or 802-345-5980.

**Rhonda P. Lathrop**, CFP, CS-RIC, is a financial advisor with Merrill, Bank of America. Her role is to help clients visualize, articulate, and pursue their financial and lifestyle goals. Rhonda is a resident of South Londonderry, Vt. Contact Rhonda.P.Lathrop@ML.com or 802-362-0985.

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**Did you know that alcohol is the leading cause of accidental death for youth ages 15-24? What can parents do about it?**

**Have a conversation** with your child about alcohol use. Parents are the single greatest influence on their child and have a major role in determining whether or not their child will experience alcohol or other drug related problems.

**Set a good example:** it will help to increase the chance that your child won't make risky decisions about alcohol or other drugs.

**Be aware of other influences.** As a parent or guardian, you can't control all the information your young child receives about alcohol. However, as the single greatest influence, you have the unique ability to prepare them for the peer pressure and onslaught of pro-alcohol messages to come.

For more information please call The Black River Area Community Coalition 228-7878 or visit [www.parentupvt.org](http://www.parentupvt.org).

## Girls on the Run Vermont spring 2021

REGION – Girls on the Run Vermont's 2021 spring coach registration is open and seeking additional coaches across the state of Vermont. Girls on the Run is a physical activity-based, positive youth development program that inspires girls in third through eighth grade to be joyful, healthy, and confident. The eight-week program incorporates running to teach critical life skills, encourage personal development, and foster team building and community service. Volunteer coaches utilize a curriculum to engage teams of girls in fun, interactive lessons. Lesson content covers topics such as empathy, friendship, identifying and managing emotions, and more. Teams meet twice a week for 90 minutes and the program culminates with all teams participating in a celebratory 5k run/walk event.

Girls on the Run Vermont

has implemented safety and program modifications to ensure the wellbeing of coaches and girls this season due to Covid-19. Coaches are trained in all aspects of GOTRVT policies including these new guidelines. The program will be offered in-person with the ability to pivot to a virtual space should weather or community illness dictate. The nonprofit organization is currently seeking coaches to facilitate the program with small teams capped at 12 girls. The season starts the week of April 5 statewide.

Coaches do not need to be runners but are required to be a minimum of 18 years old to serve as an assistant or 21 years old to serve as a head coach. All volunteer coaches must complete a background check and attend a training session.

For more information, visit [www.gotrvt.org/coach](http://www.gotrvt.org/coach).

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\*Scope of services via telehealth will vary pursuant to applicable state laws and regulations.

*March is Wellness Month*

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