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Historical Society leads a Christmas Ghost Walk

BY SHARON HUNTLEY
The Vermont Journal

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – The Cavendish Historical Society’s Margo Caulfield led about 20 brave and adventurous souls on a Christmas Ghost Walk during the evening of Sunday, Dec. 12. The walk started near the Proctorsville green and stopped at several noteworthy ghost-hosting homes along Route 131 and Depot Street, and ended with a bonfire on the grounds of the Golden Stage Inn – one of the most well-known and documented haunted inns in Vermont.

The clear and cold winter’s evening began in front of the old Proctorsville war memorial with our group listening to Caulfield’s introduction across from a street lamp that kept going out, plunging the group

into darkness. My cell phone was also malfunctioning, requiring me to restart it for the voice memo-recording feature to work – both creating an eerily ironic start to the tour.

The memorial is flanked by two adjacent buildings, one is an old brick building known originally as the Eagle Tavern and is now home to apartments, Black River Tax, and Village Clippers. This building has several bricked-up windows and an empty attic. It was once a Masonic lodge that held séances with reports from elderly residents recalling seeing pianos levitating down hallways when they were children.

On the other side of the memorial is a completely renovated home, which sits directly below the Proctor cemetery. It is haunted by a male spirit who appears at the foot of the bed, according to recent renters.



Ghost Walk participants gather around a bonfire at Golden Stage Inn. PHOTO BY SHARON HUNTLEY

Just down the road on Route 131 across from the Proctorsville Fire Station is an old home built in 1869 with the unique distinction of have the inhabiting ghost written into

the deed of the house. “Lena” has the right to the parlor and the front bedroom. The current owners have heard talking and voices when no one is there and is used to having

Lena move and hide objects throughout the home.

The Proctorsville Fire Department itself was also a long-serving host to a ghost they called “Homer.” Homer would turn lights off and on and would flush toilets and run water. According to Caulfield, he hasn’t been around for the last five years or so.

Several stops along Depot Street included stories of three children ghosts who inhabited the old Opera House, now Crows Bakery; an old Abenaki ghost tale retold from their lore; and reports of ghostly inhabitants in the basement of what was once a brothel but later the old Proctorsville Inn.

The final stop settled our group warming around a generous fire on the grounds of the Golden Stage Inn, enjoying hot cider and fresh cookies while Golden Stage innkeeper

Julie Wood told several stories relayed from past innkeepers, a smattering of personal experiences, and reported ghostly encounters from guests. The most recent sighting involved a casperesque cat walking along the foot of a bed and atop the tucked-in feet of a guest. A separate encounter inflamed a different guest’s feline allergies, though no visible cat was around and none live there.

The charming evening ended after Wood finished one last “tall tale,” which was borrowed from a fictional storyteller. Tour guests then walked the short distance along a well-lit Depot Street back to their vehicles in the crisp, cold night air.

For more information on other planned events by the Cavendish Historical Society, follow the Cavendish Connects website at www.cavendishconnects.com.

Ludlow mask mandate, cannabis revote, town charter

BY SHARON HUNTLEY
The Vermont Journal

LUDLOW, Vt. – At the Ludlow Selectboard meeting on Dec. 6, the board approved a townwide mask mandate, scheduled the revote for cannabis retail sales in Ludlow, moved their town charter forward, and discussed more budget numbers.

As reported last week, the Ludlow Selectboard approved a townwide mask mandate, termed a “rule,” effective immediately, requiring all individuals to wear face coverings while indoors at locations that are open to the public. The mandate is in effect for 45 days and then needs to be renewed every 30 days thereafter.

Due to issues with enforcement, the mandate is considered a non-enforceable rule, not an ordinance, since a “rule” cannot be petitioned to be turned over. Ludlow’s Municipal Manager Scott Murphy said the primary method of enforcement is educating the public and requesting voluntary compliance.

Discussion centered around the perspective of business owners who are looking for additional “tools” of support to enforce mask wearing since the edict would be coming from the town. Business owner and board member Justin Hyjek said, “There’s no teeth in the mandate but it does show at least we’re looking at the case load, and we’re trying to hopefully do what’s best for our small community with the influx of visitors that we see.”

The measure passed 3 to 1, with one board member abstaining.

The Selectboard has scheduled a follow-up vote to determine whether Ludlow will allow for retail cannabis set for Tuesday, Jan 11, at Ludlow Town Hall, from 10 a.m.-7 p.m., or by absentee ballots available at the Town

Offices.

After losing by 17 votes in the Nov. 2 balloting to decide whether Ludlow will opt-in for cannabis retail sales, Andi Goldman and Meredith Milligan of Gotta Love Ludlow collected over 100 signatures to petition for the revote on the issue. According to Goldman, many business leaders and local residents reached out to the duo and encouraged them to keep fighting after the initial loss.

The board unanimously approved moving forward with their newly proposed town charter, which will now be scheduled for two public hearings and appear as an article for town meeting. The town charter essentially outlines one detail to be clarified, mainly that the Selectboard has the sole authority to decide whether an issue is voted on by floor vote or Australian ballot.

The town budget review included review of the Police, Fire, Ambulance, Transfer Station, and town administration budgets.

According to Murphy, overall the proposed total budget is about 3% higher. However, Board Chair Bruce Schmidt voiced some frustration with the budgeting process at this meeting since board members and the town manager were looking at two different versions of the budget, leading to confusion during several discussion points in the meeting.

Also, during the discussion about the Police Department’s budget, Schmidt also interjected that despite this being a contract year, and having recent discussions that police officer salaries would need to be raised to attract needed officers, there was no reflection of that necessity in the budget they were looking at.

Police Chief Jeff Billings spoke from the audience to confirm the department’s need to hire

officers and that they are competing with surrounding towns who are all in need of additional law enforcement. He said if they want to hire quality people, they will have to pay them better.

Schmidt said that some of the budget increases are going to have to be in labor in some of the other departments as well.

In the discussion over administrative office costs, with the recent resignation of the town clerk, Schmidt suggested the town look at what the administrators should be doing. Murphy said that they were talking about revamping the office to make it more efficient and cost effective.

Schmidt ended the budget portion of the meeting by asking that they be able to look at where all departments stand in their current budgets as of the end of November so the board could review it.

The next regular Ludlow Selectboard meeting is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 3 at 6 p.m. at Heald Auditorium in the Ludlow Town Office building.

Cavendish mask “rule” for indoor public locations

BY SHARON HUNTLEY
The Vermont Journal

CAVENDISH, Vt. – At their Dec. 13 meeting, the Cavendish Selectboard adopted a townwide mask mandate, termed a “rule,” requiring that all individuals within Cavendish and Proctorsville wear face coverings indoors while in locations that are open to the public. The board adopted the guideline as a rule, not an ordinance, so it cannot be repealed by petition.

Town Manager Brendan McNamara said that the rule would not be an enforceable mandate, but that it would stand as more of a recommendation from the town. He said he had heard from several residents who were in favor of a mandate “especially with the influx of population coming in for the ski season.”

The vote from the board to approve the measure was unanimous, but board members Mike Ripley and George Timko both expressed concern that the measure might

pit people against each other. Board member Sandra Russo also expressed concern, but said it was better to issue a mandate, versus not. “It’s the right way to go.”

Town Health Officer Doris Eddy was asked to weigh in from the audience and agreed. “We should certainly encourage people to be wearing their mask,” she said.

Exceptions to the rule include children under 2, those with disabilities that make mask wearing impossible, and those eating and drinking once seated at a restaurant.

The rule will be in place for 45 days and then will need to be renewed every 30 days thereafter.

McNamara updated the board on his ongoing efforts to move forward with projects that can be covered under the American Rescue Plan Act funding, which will total upwards of \$420,000. He has been in discussions with regional planning and other town managers to confirm that his projects will be eligible for funding under the state guidelines, which he termed “ongoing and ever changing.”

Projects McNamara is pur-

suing for the town include two culvert replacements and ditching equipment, which as “a storm water” issue may now be under the ARPA umbrella. He is also continuing to gather cost estimates for projects he had identified in previous meetings including Pump Station upgrades, digitizing land records for Town Clerks Office, software upgrades for holding hybrid meetings, and replacing all the water meters in town.

McNamara said he wants to have the projects ready to go once approved so they can hit the ground running to secure engineers and contractors to work on the projects, which must be done by 2024. He said he would have full details for the board in the coming months.

The board discussed a letter received by the town from Vincent Narbut concerning a 65-acre property he owns on Route 131. Narbut is trying to sell the property but the town owns the mineral rights – something a new potential buyer is protesting. Narbut is requesting that the town give up the mineral rights to the property.

Timko said that was done to protect the town so that a highly visible property wouldn’t be dug up and be an unsightly stretch on scenic Route 131.

McNamara said he was having the town attorney weigh in on the matter. He confirmed that the town was not going to give up their mineral rights but could agree that the town would not extract anything from the property for a certain amount of years. The board agreed it should be a good compromise.

The town budgeting process will begin with a meeting Wednesday, Jan 5, from 6-8 p.m. The next regular Cavendish Selectboard meeting is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Cavendish Town Office.

Ludlow Rotary helps BRGN’s toy drive

LUDLOW, Vt. – In keeping with the spirit of Christmas, the Ludlow Rotary Club collected toys for Black River Good Neighbors Service. Krey Killington, BRGN director, and Art Randolph, LRC president, displayed some of the toys collected in support of the annual BRGN’s Christmas Food Basket program. The program prepares food baskets, normally with whole turkeys or chickens, for area families. When the families involved have children, toys are included to make it a truly merry Christmas. The LRC has been helping BRGN in this annual effort for a number of years.



PHOTO PROVIDED

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DEADLINES

The deadline for all content is **Thursday, Dec. 23 at 12 p.m.** for the December 29 publication.

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Londonderry master planners need your input

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Three preliminary scenarios from Londonderry's Main Street Study and Master Plan of the North Village Center were presented Nov. 18 for community review and input. Based on community comments at the Oct. 7 and Nov. 18 community meetings, and feedback posted on the Londonderry website, a consolidated scenario is being developed.

Londonderry residents and businesses can review and comment on these scenarios at the town of Londonderry website: www.londonderryvt.org. Please provide your feedback and comments by Dec. 22, 2021.

Stevens & Associates will present a preferred plan for North Main Street redevelopment and revitalization Jan. 6, 2022, based on community feedback and comments.

Highlights from each of the three scenarios include:

- Option A: Needed improvements to Main Street to protect buildings from flooding, improved streetscape, increased upstream capacity at dam, and new building opportunities;
- Option B: Creation of a new



Londonderry Master Planners are requesting input from residents and businesses by Dec. 22, 2021.

PHOTO PROVIDED

town center on Route 100, added floors to Mountain Marketplace, improved Route 11/100 traffic flow with revised intersection and recreation park;

- Options C: Roundabout at Route 11/100, use of grading and infill for current and new buildings, improved streetscape with curbs and sidewalks, outdoor recreation center and visitor's center.

The MSMP project, launched by the Planning Commission in late June, is funded through a Municipal Planning Grant from the Vermont Agency of

Commerce and Community Development. Based on criteria in the town's Request for Proposals, S&A will develop and recommend implementable plans for a vibrant, accessible, safe, mixed-use district to support existing and new business. These recommendations will reflect and retain the existing features and character of the North Village.

You are invited and encouraged to comment and provide guidance on the future of North Main Street. Drawings, descriptions, and the GNAT recording of the Nov. 18 meeting can be found at www.londonderryvt.org. Please provide your comments no later than Dec. 22, 2021.

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Expeditionary School students learn silver fabrication

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Fletcher Farm School for the Arts and Crafts, as part of their partnership with the Expeditionary School at Black River, organized and presented two Silver Fabrication classes for ESBR students. Students learned about the properties of silver, and how to design, form, solder, and finish silver jewelry. Setting stones in jewelry was also covered.

These classes were made possible by the Better Places Project, which produced eight custom-designed picnic tables that were distributed throughout public spaces in Ludlow. Local businesses sponsored each of the tables, and the resulting funds were used to provide scholarships

for Expeditionary School students.

Through the Fletcher Farm School, another class is being scheduled to create birch bark ornaments, which will be used in the ESBR student play that will be held in the Ludlow Town Auditorium Jan. 29, 2022.

As a result of the partnership between the Expeditionary School and the Fletcher Farm School, future classes will be open to ESBR students and they will be able to earn credit for taking these classes.

Fletcher Farm School also announced their raffle winners. Winning tickets for the school's annual raffles were drawn, and the following winners have been notified: Hand-hooked wool rug,

Coleen O'Neil; woven necktie seat bench, Cara Schreck; and geometric patterned crocheted afghan, Sarah Schanno.

There's still time to get in on the raffle for the Baltimore Album quilt hand-applied by Viola Greening. Tickets are on sale until Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, 2022, and can be purchased on our website at www.fletcherfarm.org.

We are now adding new classes on our website as they are scheduled. There are currently spring and summer classes available for registration. You can select classes by season or by subject.

You can register for classes, give a donation, buy a raffle ticket, or buy gift certificates, which make wonderful holiday gifts, at www.fletcherfarm.org.

Christmas in Heald Auditorium

LUDLOW, Vt. – Seems like Christmas has arrived in Ludlow Town Hall's Heald Auditorium as three members of FOIA gathered in the auditorium to erect the annual Christmas tree on the stage. Thanks to David Almond, Darlene Remy, and Kevin Kunst, the tree was decorated for the season. Why not visit the auditorium to see their final decorations!

PHOTO PROVIDED



Suzy Forlie Memorial Reading Room at Whiting Library

CHESTER, Vt. – Whiting Library formally dedicated a reading room in memory of the late Suzy Forlie of Chester. Suzy was a longtime trustee of Whiting Library and was the driving force behind the 2014 restoration of this significant landmark building. Suzy's devotion to the library and extensive knowledge of historic buildings led to Whiting Library being awarded a federal grant from USDA Rural Development for this project. Suzy was also



Whiting Library Director Deirdre Dorn (center) and Kathy Pellett (left) and Heather Chase (right), of the Suzy Forlie Memorial Committee

PHOTO PROVIDED

instrumental in planting the beautiful gardens at the library as well as spending countless hours over many years working on their upkeep.

Suzy made many contributions to her hometown as evidenced in the preservation and improvement of numerous historical buildings in Chester. She was a founding member of the Chester Historic Preservation Committee and the Chester Beautification Committee, now known as Chester Townscape.

Presenting a plaque dedicating the Suzy Forlie Memorial Reading Room to Whiting Library Director Deirdre Dorn were Kathy Pellett, Heather Chase, both members of the Suzy Forlie Memorial Committee, which worked to formalize the reading room for Suzy. Committee members also included David Lord and Cathy Hasbrouck, Library Trustees, and Rachel Root and Nancy Chute. A public dedication of the reading room and a reception will be held sometime in 2022 when it becomes safe to hold indoor gatherings.

In the background are the beautiful watercolor paintings of Jeanne Carbonetti, which are currently on display in the reading room. Please come by and enjoy this beautiful space and exceptional art exhibit this winter.

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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

Local History: Man's best friend

For those who have dogs, or those who have had dogs, I write this article.

Growing up, we always had dogs. My earliest memory is a Great Dane named Baron. We kept a beagle or two for hunting. Jill, a mongrel, was the family pet. Later, my folks had German shepherds.

Dogs became part of the family. It was always emotional to put one down. I was talking with Lisa at Smitty's recently. She had to put her dog down just before Thanksgiving. You know the emptiness.



Beagle. Isn't she beautiful?

PHOTO BY RON PATCH

Spanky

In the 1970s, now with my own family, we had Spanky. We lived in the brick house south of Chester on Route 103. I noticed a stray dog hanging around. She was skittish and wouldn't come to me when I called her although you could tell she wanted to.

After a couple days, hunger forced her to come to me. Spanky, as we named her, was a spaniel mix. It didn't take long for her to become part of the family. She was a wonderful dog.

I've lived alone much of my adult life. Hillary and Beagle were my companions.

Hillary

Some will remember when Evelyn Cummings worked at the Springfield Humane Society.

I went over one day to see what they might have for dogs. I love hounds but they have difficult traits. They are stubborn, tend to howl, their nose always to the ground, and they never come when you try to call them off a scent they have detected. However, they are very intelligent and affectionate animals.

I always look for a hound mix. Perhaps the hound traits have been watered down some by mix breeding.

I told Evelyn I was looking for a hound mix. We walked out through the kennel. One dog stood out. She was a shepherd and beagle mix. When I asked Evelyn about her, Evelyn said, "She doesn't like men," so I passed her by. No dog for me today.

A few weeks later, I went back. Evelyn wasn't there that day. Again, I saw this man-hating beagle mix. I asked to see her. The attendant put her on a leash so I could walk her about.

She was a hardheaded, high-strung, good-for-nothing dog with tons of pent up energy, a real nut-

case. This dog didn't have one redeeming quality. We came home together.

It took a lot of time and impatience, but Hillary was born. She was the size of a large beagle with short, stocky, shepherd-like legs. One day in the woods, we encountered a large raccoon. Hillary attacked. She killed that coon before I could get to her. Another time, up at the pond, she caught an otter out of the water with the same results.

While she had the temperament of a beagle, she could be aggressive like a shepherd. Where I went, Hillary went. Hillary was the best dog I ever knew.

When you live alone with a dog as I have, you become the dog's everything. The day came when I had to put Hillary down. God, that was hard. This is why I mention Lisa.

Beagle

It was a couple years before I was ready to have another dog.

Beagle was another rescue dog and a hound mix. We were unsure just what breed she was but probably foxhound or walker. She was a mellow girl - young, trim, with long legs.

How she could run!

Beagle was extremely intelligent. It's fun to mess with a dog. There was a certain hand gesture I made. When I did, Beagle would lift her head up and "Barrooo, barrooo" in her deep voice.

Don Webster stopped by one day. I showed Don this trick. How he laughed.

Well, I had to dig her grave too. I haven't had a dog since. It's just too hard on me. But if I see a dog in public I always say "Hello" and make of them, petting and talking to them.

About the time they are licking my face, I say, "Did I ever tell you I hate dogs?"

It's not what you say but the tone of your voice that dogs identify with.

Sometimes I ask, "Should I call the humane society and report the abuse?"

Most owners get it and laugh, but every now and then I meet Mr. or Mrs. Too Serious. "You get away from my dog!" I wonder what their childhood was like.

This week's old saying: "A poor man keeps a dog. A very poor man keeps two."

Aikenhead's new collection of Weathersfield stories

WEATHERSFIELD, Vt. - Steve Aikenhead of Weathersfield has recently compiled another collection of local history, "Weathersfield Tales (More!): The Last Collection of the Series."

The book follows four other collections compiled and published by Aikenhead and Sally Harris, Summer Hill Books. The latest edition comes 12 years after the fourth collection, which was titled "The End."

The stories collected include selections of the Weathersfield Historical Society Newsletter as well as the Weathersfield Weekly and stories, memories, and accounts from residents of Weathersfield. In his letter to the reader at the beginning of the book, Aikenhead explains that while he's omitted "a multitude of Weathersfield disasters," he includes only the most interesting ones that haven't been included in previous collections, and

"Nevertheless, there are plenty of disasters in here, but I think there is enough humor to balance them."

He also warns that some stories may not be suitable for children.

"Weathersfield Tales" is available for purchase at the Weathersfield Town Hall, 802-674-2626, or Blair Books and More in Chester, 802-875-3400. For more information, contact Steve Aikenhead at 802-263-5439.

Toys for Tots drop-off at Benson's Chevrolet

LUDLOW, Vt. - Help us make a child's Christmas special this year. We are again a local drop-off location in the Ludlow area. Help us fill the tree and truck with books, toys, clothing, and more this holiday season.

There is no greater joy than a child receiving a gift on Christmas Day. Drop off unwrapped items to us at Benson's Chevro-

let Inc., 25 Pond St., in Ludlow, Vt.

We will be collecting toys for children in need in our area until Dec. 23, 2021. Donated items can be children's clothing, toys, books, bikes, games, and craft projects to name just a few. The toys collected are gifted to those in need during the holidays. We sincerely

appreciate your contribution. We are open Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact Kim Lampert at 802-228-4000. We hope that you can help make a child smile this Christmas Day by donating a toy for a good cause.

SEVCA is seeking income tax assistance volunteers

WESTMINSTER, Vt. - Southeastern Vermont Community Action is now recruiting volunteers to provide tax preparation services for the 2021 tax filing season through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. This program assists families to claim the tax credits and refunds available to them.

Don't know that much about taxes? Don't worry - you'll receive training from an instructor plus IRS online courses. We are looking for individuals who are willing and able to commit at least three and up to as many hours as you want per week from December through April 15, 2022. Although prior tax preparation experience is not required, a desire to assist neighbors in need is essential. Various volunteer roles will be available to suit different skills and interests.

If you'd like to help provide this free, essential service to community members most in need, or if you have questions about volunteering, please contact Leslie Wood, SEVCA's VITA program coordinator, at lwood@sevca.org or 800-464-9951.

Additional information on SEVCA and the no-cost services and programs we provide to

Windham and Windsor County residents is available on our website at www.sevca.org.

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opinion

Dear Editor,

I attended college in the late '60s and early '70s. Many of my classmates smoked pot. I was quite happy with my own reality and had no reason to use drugs to escape it, nor have I ever smoked or consumed any cannabis. Now that I am in my 70s and aging, the prospect of developing chronic pain from an injury, cancer, arthritis, Parkinson's, glaucoma, insomnia, anxiety, or a trauma and experiencing PTSD are all possibilities. Situations for which I might want to consider relief with cannabis. A friend told me that when looking for a place to retire, two important factors would be a state that allowed the right to die and where cannabis was legal. We have both of those in Vermont.

The use of cannabis has been around for thousands of years; although, it was just 50 years ago that the psychoactive properties of THC were identified. It wasn't until the 1990s that there was a scientific understanding of the receptors in the body that respond to the two main components of cannabis: THC and CBD. The receptors for THC are primarily located in the brain and peripheral nervous system and therefore affect not only the mind but also affect movement, memory, pain, and smooth muscle. The other main chemical from the marijuana plant is CBD. It affects primarily the immune system and suppresses inflammation and does not have psychoactive effects.

Thirty years ago, it was discovered that the human body, along with other mammals, produce substances that are similar to cannabis that everyone needs to produce in their own body to function properly. Some individuals who experience fibromyalgia, migraines, and irritable bowel syndrome do not produce enough of these substances. Much like individuals with diabetes need insulin, people with this deficiency benefit from cannabis supplements.

The THC in cannabis decreases activity in two of the main pain centers in the brain and can be used therapeutically to reduce pain, alleviate traumatic memories, and suppress posttraumatic nightmares and anxiety. Cannabis has also been shown to reduce eye pressure in people with glaucoma.

Although I have never used cannabis, I support Ludlow opting in to allow the sale of cannabis in our town. There are desperate patients who, in their quest for relief from their symptoms, buy unsafe products

on the street potentially laced with ketamine or other dangerous drugs. If and when I develop a need for cannabis, I want to be able to purchase it locally from proprietors who are concerned about consumer safety and third-party laboratory analysis of the products they are selling.

The citizens of Ludlow deserve a cannabis store that can offer them safe products, knowledgeable advice, and accurate information concerning appropriate choices: Sativa versus Indica and the correct strength to use. A store established in Ludlow by people who care about our community can educate their local patrons about medication interactions and reactions, modes of administration, harm reduction, and the safe and efficacious use of cannabis.

Sincerely,
Linda Thomson, PhD,
APRN
Ludlow, Vt.

Dear Editor,


The Springfield Garden Club would like to thank the many who made their annual fundraising event successful. The club offers much gratitude to Jessica Martin, Springfield on the Move, the town of Springfield, Springfield Housing Authority, Heather Hartford of SRDC, the Congregational Church, as well as the many members and spouses who went over the top to help make this year's fundraiser a success.

In addition, the Garden Club would like to thank the following businesses and private donors, many of which gave overwhelming financial support: Steve Aikenhead, Anonymous, All Seasons Construction Corp., Bibens Ace Hardware, John and Corinne Bond, Bonny and Peter Andrews, Brian S.

Spigel, DMD, Christopher A. Fauver, Community Bank of North America, John and Hollie Conway, Darlene and Paul Laroche, David King, Patricia Graves, Image Tek MFG, Lawrence & Wheeler Inc., Peter MacGillivray, Geraldyn and Richard Marasa, Margery Collins and Joel Mumford, Patricia Martin, Walter Martone and Marc Kimball, Muse & Associates, P&S Distributors, Paul and Eileen Kendall, Shirley Cooper, Springfield Housing Authority, Steve Green, Sunshine Acres, Tina's Hallmark, Patricia Townsend, Vermont Timber Works, Lyle and Marriet Wood, and Young's Furniture and Appliance.

Merry Christmas to all, and very best wishes for a healthy year ahead.

Sincerely,
Springfield Garden Club



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From left, Therse Burton, Alicia Jennis, Barbara Riotte, and Glenna Richardson.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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 PC port
- 4 Roast VIPs
- 7 — cheese dressing
- 8 Some tides
- 10 Coffee-break hr.
- 11 Mistakes in print
- 13 Mitch Hedberg and Margaret Cho, for two Standard
- 16 Cyber-commerce
- 18 To and —
- 19 Greet
- 20 "Roots" author Haley
- 21 Racing shell
- 23 Red-tag events
- 25 Poker variety
- 26 \$ dispensers
- 27 1040 org.
- 28 Mideast peninsula
- 30 Mimic
- 33 "Don't slouch!"
- 36 Spud
- 37 Thin nails
- 38 Brick worker
- 39 Used car sites
- 40 Med. plan option

DOWN

- 1 Of an arm bone
- 2 Writer O'Casey
- 3 Unfair treatment
- 4 "Thank you, Henri"
- 5 Yule tune
- 6 Pesky email
- 7 Alpha follower
- 8 Himalayan
- 9 Repress
- 10 Recipe abbr.
- 12 Farm units
- 14 Gas co., for one
- 15 Boston team, for short
- 19 Paul Newman film
- 20 Gore and Franken
- 21 Vegas area
- 22 Convention
- 23 Luminary
- 24 Good-natured
- 25 Venus, to Serena
- 26 Playwright Chekhov
- 28 Tic
- 29 "Life — short ..."
- 30 Marble type
- 31 Profs' degrees
- 32 UFO crew
- 34 Hexagonal state
- 35 Press agent?

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REAL ESTATE

classifieds

featured pet

My name's Zappa, and I'm a 6-year-old neutered male German Shepherd. My previous home had to make a few adjustments so I find myself at Lucy Mackenzie. I was adopted briefly, but things didn't work out as best as we had all hoped, so I have come back here again. Admittedly, I'm a little hesitant around new people but warm up quickly. During my short stay here, I've learned how much I really do like being around people. I enjoy affection and love a good walk outside in the sunshine.



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Homes like these are a rare find with big, spacious rooms, high ceilings and lots of details. The first floor of this home offers formal dining room, formal and informal living room (with woodstove) newer kitchen with walk-in pantry, laundry room, master suite with full bathroom, a large front/center hall. Upstairs offers a second master bedroom with bath, sitting room, additional bedrooms, bath and in-law kitchen for configuration as one please. Outside offers wrap around porches, attached garage, deck area and a large Barn. The grounds consisting of 1+/- acres is a delightful walk including gardens, fire pit, former water feature. Well cared for and worth a look! \$399,000

Picture perfect. Major renovations from top to bottom, everything new in the living space including an open concept living/dining/kitchen (kitchen with new appliances, butcher block counter top, farmers sink, sliders to the deck) and laundry/half bath on the first floor; three bedrooms (master bedroom with 3/4 bath and walk-in closet) and two baths on the second floor to a new furnace, well pump and hot water heater in the walk-out basement. Attached one car garage has oversized headroom. 3.4+/- acres with expansive side yard with long river frontage. Access to snowmobile trails across the street and close proximity to Grafton & Saxtons River. A must see. **JUST REDUCED TO \$289,900**

For those looking for newer construction with modernized features. This home offers a comfortable floor plan with spacious eat-in kitchen, bright livingroom with gas stove, walk in pantry/laundry with half bath all on the first floor. Second floor offers master bedroom with full bath, two more bedrooms and a 3/4 bath. Fullpoured concrete foundation offers usable basement area. Accessibly located with nice level yard on top of hill. \$179,900

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Solution time: 24 mins.

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| S | E |   | M | C | S | | | | | | | |
| B | L | E | U | N | E | A | P | S |
| T | E | N | A | M | E | R | R | A | T | A |
| S | T | A | N | D | U | P | C | O | M | I | C | S |
| P | A | R |   | E | T | A | I | L |   | F | R | O |
|   | H | A | T | L |   | A | L | E | X |   |
| S | C | U | L |   | S | A | L | E | S |   |
| S | T | U | D |   | A | T | M | S |   |
| I | R | S |   | S | I | N | A | I |   | A | P | E |
| S | I | T | U | R | S |   | H | A | I | G | H |T |
| P | O | T | A | T |O |   | B | I |A |D |O |S |
| M |A |S |O |N |   | L |O |T |S |
| R |M |O |   | E |N |E |
    
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 (06/14/22 - 52)

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 (03/22/22 - 13)

arts & entertainment

Edgar May free swim for 15th anniversary

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – In addition to welcoming in a new year, the Edgar May Health and Recreation Center is celebrating our 15th anniversary with a free community swim for youth under the age of 14, Friday, Dec. 31, from 12-5 p.m., on the pool deck.

The Southern Vermont Health and Recreation Center – renamed in honor of Edgar May in 2009 – first opened Dec. 31, 2006 with a Free Splash Day for Springfield children. As a founding member of the facility, Edgar May was passionate about providing recreational opportunities for children in the region. The free swim kicks off a series of special programs and promotions throughout 2022 to celebrate 15 years of providing area residents of all ages with opportunities and resources necessary to live an ac-



Youth under 14 can enjoy a free swim Dec. 31. PHOTO PROVIDED

tive and healthy lifestyle. “We are so proud to have served the greater Springfield region for the last 15 years by providing opportunities for indoor health and recreation,” says Executive Director Christian Craig. “The support we have received from our local community has been amazing, and it’s only fitting to celebrate

the way we started – with a free day for kids to splash and play in the pools.”

Now in 2021, the Edgar May serves over 1,200 members across 28 communities with our three swimming pools, fitness facility, full-service locker rooms, steam rooms, the group exercise studio, and the 40-foot climbing tower. In addition to the 18,000-square-foot facility, the Edgar May offers programming for all ages including swimming lessons, a youth swim team, group exercise classes, personal training, wellness programming, and youth and family programs.

Masks are required to enter the building and may be removed while in the pool. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult. For more information on the free swim, call 802-885-2568, email info@edgarmay.org, or visit www.edgarmay.org.

Luminous Crush to release “Incandescent” album

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – Lovingly known as “purveyors of dream pop since 2015,” southern Vermont’s Luminous Crush will publicly release its fifth collection of original music, titled “Incandescent,” Saturday, Dec. 18 at 6 p.m.

The site of this long awaited album drop is to be the newly opened, independent record store, In the Moment Records, owned by Teresa and Sujay Patel, located at the Mountain Marketplace in Londonderry, Vt.

The store was previously located on Main Street in Brattleboro, but the Patels had always dreamed of bringing this vinyl paradise to the local community scene where they live. They opened doors early this November. Now the dream is real – complete with dream pop.

Ben Campbell and Laura Molinelli of Luminous Crush approached their friends about hosting the CD release party at the store and everyone got excited. After a year and a half of “virtual” experiences, the time seemed ripe to celebrate “Incandescent” in person with a limited pressing of CD and digital download



Ben Campbell and Laura Molinelli of Luminous Crush to release “Incandescent” album Dec. 18. PHOTO PROVIDED

cards. Surrounded by friends and fans in a very local and physical space, In the Moment Records is the perfect venue. With its reputation as an establishment genuinely devoted to music, fans, and collectors of every genre will find sanctuary.

The event will take place in the store from 6-8 p.m. with Luminous Crush, also featuring Christian Heins on bass and Bill Conley on pedal steel and dobro, performing an acoustic set of original material selected from their albums. There will be giveaways throughout the evening as well as the opportunity to

take home a CD or download card with purchase from In the Moment Records. Friends and neighbors can make a night of it with fabulous food and drink available right next door at the New American Grill.

Tracks from “Incandescent,” as well as those from their earlier release this year, have recently been featured on Vermont Public Radio, WEQX, and WEXT with critical praise from Burlington area’s Seven Days magazine.

For more on Luminous Crush, visit www.luminouscrush.com. Check out In the Moment Records at www.facebook.com/inthemomentrecords.



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holiday happenings

Gift giveaway at Calcutta's

LUDLOW, Vt. – About 7,500 presents are wrapped and ready to be given away at Calcutta's Christmas Party, Saturday, Dec. 18. The Calcutta crew will be at the Cavendish Fire Station from 12-2 p.m., and Proctorsville Fire Station from 2-4 p.m. with free gifts and cheer for local children. They will then return to Calcutta's to meet with Ludlow's Fire Department and local children from 4-6 p.m. Free buffet from 4-8 p.m. Everyone is invited. Free gift for all kids 16 and younger.



PHOTO PROVIDED

“It’s A Wonderful Life” showing at Heald Auditorium –

LUDLOW, Vt. – The classical Christmas movie, “It’s a Wonderful Life,” will be the featured Christmas film in the Ludlow Town Hall’s Heald Auditorium Saturday, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m.

Frank Capra’s classic is a story that has withstood the test of time and brought tears and joy to people all over the globe. Starring Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed, supported by Lionel Barrymore, Thomas Mitchell, and a host of great film stars, it is the tale of a small-town man who discovers that his life has brought happiness to the people in the town – only after he believes he has failed.

It is the kind of movie that needs no explanation. The years of its exposure has made it something that is part of our folklore. A man with the aid of his as yet “unwinged” angel is compelled to review his past

after believing his only value is from his life insurance policy for his family.

As with all FOLA movies, the event is free and open to everyone; donations are appre-

ciated. In keeping with the town policy on Covid-19, masks are required. For more information, call 802-228-7239 or visit www.fola.us.

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Not Just Men’s Night, a festive evening

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On Friday, Dec. 17, from 4-8 p.m., Canal Street Art Gallery is participating in Bellows Falls Downtown Development Alliance’s Not Just Men’s Night, a festive evening of local shopping, dining, music, art, and more.

All events are free and open to the public. At the art gallery, we will have warm refreshments and cookies. Stop by our heated tent for some window shopping or meet our “Art for All” seasonal group show artists with Live Artist Talk at 6 p.m., which will also stream on Facebook and our website.

The fourth annual “Art for All” showcases artwork

from over 20 artists, including CSAG’s represented artists Spaulding Dunbar, Nancy Fitz-Rapalje, Kim Grall, Marcie Maynard, Jeanne McMahon, Lisa McNealus, Charles Norris-Brown, MC Noyes, Phyllis Rosser, Melissa Rubin, Rodrica Tilley, and John van de Does; six returning artists Robert Burch, Susu Gadbois, Deedee Jones, Carla Liguori, Mark Ragonese, and Chris Sherwin; and introducing Evgenia Blossom, Medora Herbert, Caroline Ryan Morgan, and Sandy Pond.

“Art for All” is on view through Jan. 15, 2022.

This popular group show supports the gallery’s mission to represent and exhibit contemporary artists in all styles and mediums and to offer an

open space where all creative voices may be heard. All the while keeping the purchase of original art attainable to all collectors while fostering the creative economy and community development. This holiday season, CSAG is donating 1% of profits to a fund for the maintenance of existing public art in Rockingham.

Canal Street Art Gallery, 23 Canal St., in Bellows Falls, is open Wednesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, go to www.canalstreetartgallery.com, call Mike or Emmett at 802-289-0104, or email artinfo@canalstreetartgallery.com.

Kids Christmas Party



Saturday, December 18th
1:00 - 3:00 pm

Open to All Children of the Community 12 & Younger

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Thur, Dec. 16, CLOSED for Private Event
Fri, Dec. 17, from 4-9 pm
Sat, Dec. 18, CLOSED for Private Event
Sun and Mon, CLOSED
Tue, Dec. 14, from 5-9 pm

We appreciate your understanding of our special hours, and we apologize for any inconvenience.

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sports

AUTOMOTIVE

Winter sports upcoming schedule

REGION – Game schedules are subject to change. For more information about an individual game or team, go to the schools' athletic department websites. If you would like to submit sports news or photos from a recent game, please email editor@vermontjournal.com.

THURSDAY, DEC. 16 –

Girls basketball – Springfield at Brattleboro, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 17 –

Boys basketball – Fall Mountain at Mascenic, 6:30 p.m.
Leland & Gray at Arlington, 7 p.m.
Springfield at Rivendell Academy, 7 p.m.

Girls basketball – Bellows Falls at Windsor, 7 p.m.
Mascenic at Fall Mountain, 6:30 p.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 20 –

Boys basketball – Bellows Falls at Poultney, 7 p.m.
Fall Mountain at Raymond, 6:30 p.m.
Long Trail at Springfield, 7 p.m.

Girls basketball – Green Mountain at Long Trail, 6 p.m.
Proctor at Leland & Gray, 7 p.m.
Raymond at Fall Mountain, 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 22 –

Boys basketball – Leland & Gray at Poultney, 7 p.m.
Long Trail at Bellows Falls, 7 p.m.
Newport at Fall Mountain, 6:30 p.m.
Otter Valley at Springfield, 7 p.m.

Girls basketball – Fall Mountain at Newport, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 23 –

Boys basketball – Green Mountain at Proctor, 7 p.m.

Girls basketball – Leland & Gray at Poultney, 7 p.m.
Mill River at Bellows Falls, 7 p.m.
White River Valley at Springfield, 6 p.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 27 –

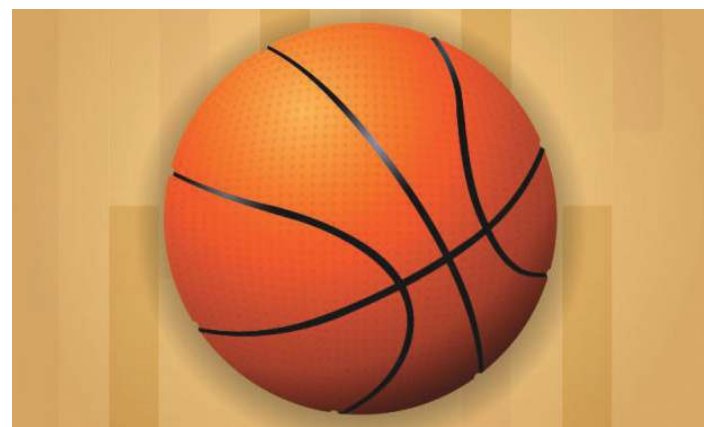
Boys basketball – Hartford at Bellows Falls, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, DEC. 28 –

Girls basketball – Green Mountain at Hartford, 7 p.m.
Woodstock at Leland & Gray, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 29 –

Boys basketball – Bellows Falls at Arlington, 7 p.m.
Mount St. Joseph at Springfield, 7 p.m.



Don't miss the game!

STOCK PHOTO

THURSDAY, DEC. 30 –

Boys basketball – Leland & Gray at West Rutland, 6 p.m.

Girls basketball – Hartford at Bellows Falls, 7 p.m.
Springfield at Green Mountain, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, JAN. 3 –

Boys basketball – Hillsboro-Deering at Fall Mountain, 6:30 p.m.

Girls basketball – Fall Mountain at Hillsboro-Deering, 5:30 p.m.
Green Mountain at White River Valley, 7 p.m.
Long Trail at Bellows Falls, 7 p.m.
Springfield at Windsor, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, JAN. 4 –

Boys basketball – Bellows Falls at Leland & Gray, 7 p.m.
Green Mountain at Springfield, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, JAN. 6 –

Girls basketball – Bellows Falls at Leland & Gray, 7 p.m.
Green Mountain at Proctor, 7 p.m.
Woodstock at Springfield, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 7 –

Boys basketball – Arlington at Leland & Gray, 7 p.m.
Bellows Falls at White River Valley, 7 p.m.
Mill River at Green Mountain, 7 p.m.
Springfield at Woodstock, 7 p.m.
Winnisquam at Fall Mountain, 6:30 p.m.

Girls basketball – Fall Mountain at Winnisquam, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 8 –

Girls basketball – Leland & Gray at White River Valley, 1 p.m.

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