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Gingerbread houses and Santa Claus at the Christmas in Grafton festival-

BY PAULA BENSON
The Shopper

GRAFTON, Vt. – Freshly cut Christmas trees, homemade crafts, and gingerbread houses were featured at Christmas in Grafton, an annual town event, held on Saturday, Dec. 3. In its sixth year, the festival gives residents and visitors a chance to kick off the winter holiday season and support local businesses and organizations benefiting the community.

Guests braved the wet December weather to purchase Christmas trees from the Grafton Fire and Rescue department, with proceeds going to support the Fire and Rescue Auxiliary Scholarship Fund. The Grafton Historical Society was selling wreaths, and in the town chapel, homemade soup, baked goods, and desserts were for sale, proceeds going toward the Grafton Community Church and Foodbank programs.

The Grafton Public Library hosted the "Gingerbread House Extravaganza," with gingerbread houses on display around the library, each created by a local family, group, or resident. The participants could choose to take their creations home or donate them to a silent auction to benefit the library.

There were holiday gifts for cats and dogs available for purchase from Phinney's Friends, a nonprofit organization that helps lower income people care for their pets.

Santa Claus rode into town at 11:30 a.m., not on a sleigh, but on a Grafton Fire and Rescue ladder truck. Local shops like MKT: Grafton, who was host to Christmas cookie decorating, The Village Cheese Shop, and Mercantile were open for holiday gift shopping.

Grafton, Vt. is often referred to as the "quintessential Vermont town," and all it takes is a drive down the charming Main Street to confirm that description. And Christmas in Grafton is a fun and friendly community gathering, and yearly holiday tradition.

Gingerbread houses on display in the library.
PHOTO BY PAULA BENSON

Santa reads to children at Grafton Public Library.
PHOTO BY PAULA BENSON

Participants, volunteers, and residents remain hopeful that next year's festival will see some sunshine.

Tri-board discusses diversity and inclusion

BY BETSY THURSTON
The Shopper

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – On Tuesday, Nov. 29, the Tri-board, consisting of the Town of Rockingham Selectboard, and Village Trustees of Bellows Falls and Saxtons River, discussed the Declaration of Equity & Inclusion (DEI) and Rockingham policies for harassment, anti-discrimination, and sexual harassment.

Rockingham and Bellows Falls approved the DEI in September, Saxtons River adopted its policy earlier this summer.

Municipal Manager Scott Pickup said after the DEI was approved, the town had updated language in the harassment, anti-discrimination, and sexual harassment policies. A motion to approve was recommended by Trustee James McAuliffe.

Rockingham Selectboard Vice-Chair Susan Hammond asked why it was not "more gender-neutral" and suggested 'they/them' as opposed to 'he' or 'she.'

Selectboard Chair Peter Golec read the motion and the Rockingham Selectboard approved the policies with amendments to remove "he" and "she," changing to "they," and eliminating "male" and "female" to read just "employee." The Bellows Falls Trustees approved the motion with the updated language.

Village President Deborah Wright said the letter of inclusion was the beginning, suggesting they do more. She said technical assistance was available and other towns were taking bigger steps to becoming more inclusive.

Saxtons River Chair Amy Howlett asked what other towns were doing. Wright said many had formed committees helping bring information on inclusive methods of hiring, facilitating discussions, and hiring companies like Abundant Sun to train departments and boards.

Abundant Sun, formed in 2003, takes diversity and inclusion to another level. In 2015 they moved to Burlington, Vt. They help create just, ethical, diverse, inclusive, and positive environments where people can thrive and evolve.

Wright observed that in the Rockingham Incremental Development Working Group (RIDWG) presentation, a reference to "old people" was made. She said that is ageism and a bias of our residents, and said everyone could benefit with diversity training.

Wright suggested Rockingham can do more for our indigenous, ensuring they are a part of the town plan and the area wide plan. She said, "they want to be more recognized."

Trustee Wade Masure asked what a committee would look like and who should be involved. Wright suggested representation from all three boards, residents, members of the Abenaki community, and others with different backgrounds.

Masure asked if the support would provide guidance, training, and materials.

Wright said, "there is help, we are not reinventing the wheel."

Rockingham Selectboard member Cowan asked if Resource Manager Heather Hitchcock is the DEI coordinator and suggested there be one place in town hall this information could land. Pickup agreed this could be discussed.

Development Director Gary Fox said the town and Abenaki community were discussing locations for the cultural heritage center: the Waypoint Center and the TL Riley Complex.

McAuliffe said he looked at the level of economic disadvantage as a larger problem, and said, we have "generational underachievers." He pointed out Rockingham was basically 96% white.

Wright said the municipality could look to the model of the school's equity committee.

Howlett was "delighted to see this work is being done" and mentioned the nonprofit Greater Falls Connections, but suggested Rockingham move carefully going forward. She said sometimes municipal organizations "are blunt and ineffective" where matters of delicacy are necessary.

Trustee Jeff Dunbar questioned if a committee had to start with the town or village. Hammond suggested board members join what other organizations are already doing.

The tri-board meets on the months there is a fifth Tuesday. The Bellows Falls Trustees meetings are on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 6 p.m., the Rockingham Selectboard on the first and third Tuesdays at 6 p.m., and the Saxtons River Trustees on the first Monday at 7 p.m. All meetings are open to the public with a Zoom option available.

BF Fire Station completes next phase of renovations

BY JOE MILLIKEN
The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Bellows Falls Fire Station, located at 170 Rockingham Street, recently completed multiple construction upgrades at the facility, which was originally completed back in 1984. According to Bellows Falls Fire Chief, Shaun McGinnis, the funds for the repairs were taken from the town's fund balance, which is handled by the Village of Bellows Falls.

Completed over a two-month period, the recent station improvements included the paving of the front pod of the firehouse, and multiple heat pumps installed in the police department dispatch and lobby areas. Additional improvement plans are also in the works.

"I am currently working on getting quotes for new gutters for the fire station," Shaun McGinnis said in a recent interview. "We are looking to add snow breaks and trim work that needs to be done to the building."

Other possible improvements in the works include the building of a Sally port on the building to aid the police department. "This would enhance officer safety, provide shelter for the police cruisers during cold and inclement weather, as well as provide additional storage space," McGinnis added.

"Having garage space for the cruisers would also cut down on idling time in cold weather. The funds that will be needed to have construction estimates and plans drawn up was discussed and approved at a recent trustees meeting. However, the time frame for the project will depend on what the architectural firm designing the plans comes up with."

Bellows Falls Fire Station.
PHOTO BY JOE MILLIKEN

Bellows Falls students send care packages

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Bellows Falls Middle School Student Council, made up of a group of 7th and 8th graders, put together care packages for Vermont National Guard soldiers who are in training or deployed overseas. Sergeant First Class Justus Keith and SSG Joshua Cobb received them on behalf of the soldiers. The intent of the council's gesture was to make the community aware of the Americans from our area that are away from their homes during the holidays and to let them know that others are thinking of them.

Justus Keith and Joshua Cobb accepting care packages from students.
PHOTO PROVIDED

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BF Hoop Shoot champions

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Hoop Shoot Free Throw contest took place this past Saturday, Dec. 3, at the Bellows Falls Middle School Gym.

We crowned five local Bellows Falls and Fall Mountain basketball players with awards, based on age group.

Hoop Shoot winners.
PICTURE BY JOE JOSEPH

First place winners:

8-9 girls age group: McKenna Stoodley, 10-11: Johanna Kissell, 12-13: Delaney Stoodley, 10-11 boys: Samuel Schreiter, 12-13: Jacob Kissell.

Second place winners:

10-11 girls: Olivia Tostrop, 12-13: Loralei Hill, 12-13 boys: Cruz Febbie.

Any event cannot happen without volunteers. We want to thank Karen Stoodley, Allie Lansberry, Nancy and Floyd Lafoe, Christine Cook, Pat Kiniry, Bill Hammond, Ric Aumand, Ryan Stoodley, and Chairman Smokey Aumand.

The above first place winners move on to the district event in Windsor, Vt., Jan. 8, 2023. First place shooters from there move on to the Vermont state contest in Barre on Jan. 23, 2023. Thank you to the players and volunteers.

Climate action event

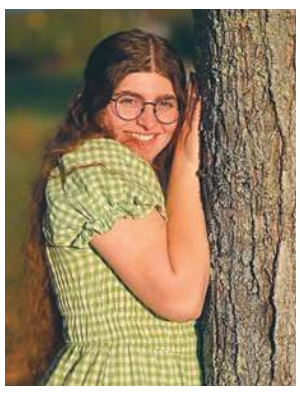
ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – On Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 6 p.m., join Senator-elect Rebecca White, Keep Vermont Cool Campaign Manager Jordan Heiden, and State Representative Michelle Boslun for a discussion on climate action and advocacy. Get ready for an interactive evening of climate action, including a brief presentation, advocacy training, legislator meet and greets, food, music, and giveaways. This event is free and open to the public. Email Jane Stromberg at jstromberg@vpirg.org with any questions.

BF DAR Good Citizen

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – It is a pleasure to announce that Grace Waryas has been named the 2022-2023 Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen for Bellows Falls Union High School. The DAR Good Citizen Award and Scholarship Contest, created in 1934, is intended to encourage and reward the qualities of good citizenship. Grace, a senior, is the daughter of Rebecca Bezanson in Bellows Falls.

This award is given based on the following criterion set forth by the DAR national organization: dependability (including truthfulness, loyalty, and punctuality), service (including cooperation, courtesy, and consideration of others), leadership (including personality, self-control, and ability to assume responsibility), and patriotism (including unselfish interest in family, school, community, and nation).

Grace has demonstrated dependability through her commitment to her classes, school activities and her community. She is a dedicated student who works hard. She completes her work with the quality, attention to due dates, and social consciousness commendable in a high school student. She is soft spoken, yet, she asserts herself and voices herself with conviction, dignity, self-respect, and an awareness of multiple perspectives. A member of the Marilee Huntoon Jesse A. Judd Chapter of the National Honor Society, she serves as a good role model to others. Grace has a strong work ethic and puts in extra time and effort to do well in her classes.



Grace Waryas.
PHOTO PROVIDED

Grace has a "take charge" personality and is responsible and dependable in both academics and service. Grace works hard to get everyone involved in activities and makes sure everyone's voice is heard. She is also a valued member of the BFUHS student newspaper, "The Howler."

Grace is dedicated to helping others, and is very interested in activism; through her actions, and class assignments, she creatively addresses social, economic, gender, and racial injustices.

Grace's name fits her perfectly; she contributes to the school and community at large in a mature and informed manner. Her continual activism has given her years of wisdom beyond her years. She is an exceptional young woman who presents her views, and represents BFUHS positively. Her volunteerism started at a young age when she had the opportunity to serve as a legislative page at the Vermont State House. Grace has also volunteered on the Santa Express and making bracelets for the seniors in the community who participate in the Meals on Wheels Program. She has partnered with Vermont Afterschool to offer ideas to the Governor's team on why free and accessible afterschool programs for all youth in Vermont are important. Grace also served as a valued member of the Vermont Student Anti-Racism Network (VSARN), a completely student led group.

Clearly deserving of this award, BFUHS is proud to have Grace Waryas serve as the BFUHS 2022-2023 DAR Good Citizen.

BF Woman's Club meeting

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Members of the Bellows Falls Woman's Club will meet on Dec. 13 at the United Church, on School Street, beginning at 1:30 p.m. The working committees will continue to firm up plans as they strive to meet the needs of the club and outreach to nearby areas and communities. The club is partnering with the Bellows Falls Rotary Club in providing holiday cookies for homeless families and individuals living in the area. Cookie boxes will be assembled at the meeting.

At the Nov. 8 meeting of the club, Ian Graham, head librarian at Rockingham Free Public Library, spoke of his personal journey in working in libraries and highlighted the history of the Rockingham Library – a Carnegie library – as well as its current programs and ongoing offerings. Members brought in many bags and boxes of non-perishable food and personal care items, which were delivered to the Fall Mountain Food Shelf.

Women interested in joining the local club and helping with its projects may contact Betty Haggerty at hubett@hotmail.com.

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LOCAL HISTORY

BY RON PATCH

Ron Patch is a Chester native, past President of Chester Historical Society, and a lifelong antiques dealer.

He can be reached at 802-374-0119 or email ronpatch27@gmail.com

The Christmas tree –

Antique Christmas lights showing colored liquid.
PHOTO PROVIDED BY RON PATCH

My earliest memory of Christmas is 1955. I was four years old. I have just hazy visions of that day.

We always had a tree, although by today's standard they weren't much. Today balsam trees are widely available, but in the 1950s, many Christmas trees were spruce. More on spruce trees later.

When I was 13, my father and I went rabbit hunting up in Weston Island. We always had Beagles for rabbit dogs. I asked my father the night before if we could get a tree. "Sure" he said, "When we are done hunting."

We hunted maybe four hours, getting a couple rabbits. On our way out of the woods we still didn't have a tree and we didn't have a saw. I mentioned this fact to Dad. "Don't worry." He said.

We came to a nice stand of young balsam. These trees were anywhere from five to 15 feet tall. Dad asked me to pick one out. I surveyed the trees and found one I liked. Dad took his 12-gauge shotgun about six inches from the base of the tree and pulled the trigger. Boom! It blew the tree clean off! I dragged the tree out of the woods to our 1962 Scout.

We had old-fashioned lights and ornaments for Christmas tree decorations. Many antique balls, some quite fancy. But what I remember the most were the lights we had. The photo with this article shows two of these old Christmas lights. The first thing you'll notice are the glass tubes, not plastic, that are filled with a colored liquid. The bases come in different colors, and designs. These bases light up adding more color to our tree.

What made these lights fascinating for a young boy was when we plugged them in. Inside the colored plastic base is the lightbulb. Heat from the lightbulb caused the colored liquid in the glass tube to bubble. I remember watching the liquid bubble with great fascination. I think these lights have been reproduced today.

We had a good assortment of glass bulbs to hang on the tree. I still remember a couple. One was probably two inches in diameter with Santa in his sleigh circling the globe. It was bright colored with a frosted portion to simulate snow.

Spruce trees

Back to spruce trees. Spruce trees have shorter more sparse needles than balsam trees. We had an old fashion tree stand that had a built in bowl for water. The outside base of the stand was decorated with Christmas scenes.

We kept water in the bowl to prevent the tree from drying out. Ha! It was also believed putting an aspirin in the water helped prevent the tree from drying out. Another Ha! A spruce tree dries out quickly, causing needles to drop to the floor. These pesky little needles could be with us long after the tree had been retired.

How so, you may wonder. If you were in stocking feet, these needles had a way of finding you. Your socks would pick up the needles, when they promptly stung your toes. These things you don't forget. I'm sure others will remember.

My father's family tradition was to exchange gifts after dark on Christmas Eve. Christmas day we always went to my sister Norma's house on Green Street in Bellows Falls. They always had a scotch pine tree. They were full and very bushy. Dinner was served at 1 p.m. What a spread it was. Turkey, ham, mashed potato with stuffing and gravy, squash, fresh bread, and everything else you could think of, including turnip. I never liked turnip.

Norma's husband Louie had several relatives who always came. Louie had a half-sister, I don't recall her name, and an aunt and uncle who were always there. I don't remember the uncle's name now, maybe Buster, but Louie's aunt was Ida.

The kitchen was busy with women preparing the meal, baking pies, and lots of chit-chat. There was a good size dining table for the adults. Us kids sat at card tables off to the side. There were mountains of food. No one went home hungry.

What I remember about Ida is she would get a little tipsy along about dinner time. She must have had a flask, probably in her purse. By dinner time she was getting right.

These are some of my memories of over 60 years. Merry Christmas!

This week's old saying is from George Carlin: "The main reason Santa is so jolly is because he knows where all the bad girls live."

Schmidt discusses Okemo's 2022-23 ski season

Jim Rumrill and Bruce Schmidt.
PHOTO PROVIDED

LUDLOW, Vt. – At the recent luncheon meeting of the Ludlow Rotary Club (LRC), Bruce Schmidt, Vice President and General Manager of Okemo Resort, spoke to members of the LRC about the readiness of the Vail-owned resort for the 2022-23 ski season.

Schmidt, a 37-year veteran at Okemo, indicated that snowmaking and lift equipment had been upgraded to provide the mountain with improved snow making capability. He also noted the resort had devoted considerable effort to increase its housing for employees.

Other key advances at the resort included a new parking plan to reduce traffic, a new bus drop area, no longer requiring reservations, doubling the snowmaking staff, opening all restaurants this season, and having more music performances around the resort

When queried about the role of Vail in the operation of the mountain, Schmidt said that 95% of all decisions were made at Okemo, not at corporate headquarters at Vail.

He also explained his own growth in the organization and how the resort likes to train employees so they could advance to more challenging careers at the resort.

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opinion

COMMUNITY NEWS

Dear Editor,

Please allow me this moment to thank the good people of the Town of Westminster that took the time to cast a ballot for my candidacy for Justice of the Peace in this past November's election. If we encounter each other while out and about, please make yourself known so that I may thank you personally.

Sincerely,
Bruce P. Murray
Westminster, Vt.

Dear Editor,

I recently moved to Springfield and wanted to get involved in the local Democratic Party. I was able to make some quick and friendly connections, and I joined the Springfield Democratic Town Committee. I was also elected to be a delegate to the Windsor County Democratic Party.

Last Saturday the committee held an event at the Black River Coffee Bar called "Springfield, Share Your Voice." It was a terrific get together, and I was really encouraged that so many of our local representatives were there. State Senators Alison Clarkson, Dick McCormack, and Becca White came to meet the voters of Springfield, along with State Representatives Alice Emmons and Kristi Morris. The day was informal and had a neighborly feeling. Later, the gathering unexpectedly broke into a very helpful forum where the elected officials listened to constituent concerns and talked about upcoming legislation and issues that were most important to them.

The town committee is planning to make "Share Your Voice" a quarterly event, and I know that we're all hoping to see our Springfield neighbors of all political viewpoints in the future. I'm so happy to be in a community that is represented by people so willing to come meet and listen to local voters. I'm hoping to get to know more about my new home and to get to know my other Springfield neighbors.

Sincerely,
Britton Herring
Springfield, Vt.

Fraud Watch Network: Season's scammings

REGION – As we rush into the season for holiday celebrations, it's necessary to be reminded that this time of giving is also the season for scamming. While ongoing fraud and scam activities remain in play, here are some of the seasonal crimes we can expect.

1. Medicare Advantage Schemes – Medicare Open Enrollment always brings on the barrage of advertising for enrollment or change in Medicare plans pitched by an ever-growing cast of celebrities. These sales pitches are not scams, but as I like to say, the devil is in the details. Along with the legitimate promotions, there are numerous fraudulent offers appearing in social media, email, and on phone calls. Some general tips: Don't initiate contact by calling or responding to any of these offers. Keep in mind that there is no such thing as "Free." While you may be offered numerous benefits associated with specific plan enrollment, they come with a cost, and it is often with increased co-pays, deductibles, or premiums. Once you respond to an offer, the promoter is free to continue contacting you. In terms of the fraudsters, they will ask for personal information such as a Medicare or Social Security numbers and birth dates. Frequently, the intended victim is asked to provide a credit card number to "streamline" billing. Providing any information at this point can come back to haunt you. Anyone considering a new plan or a change should visit the Medicare website, www.medicare.gov, where information on all available plans, sorted by state, is available and includes costs.

2. Charity Fraud – A criminal with a computer and basic skills can easily design a convincing website for a fake charity, send email notices to thousands of recipients, and promote the scam in social media. In addition, fraudulent phone calls and text messages deliver messages of extreme need with the expectation that some recipients will fall for the ruses.

Some general tips: Beware of emails with a sender address including @gmail or @hotmail. Website addresses (URLs) should display the name of the charity followed by ".org," such as www.redcross.org.

Resist the plea to make donations on the phone, by website, or via text, regardless of message "urgency." Instead, ask to have a pledge card mailed to you. In my experience, the criminals will not send pledge cards; after all, that costs them money.

Unless you are personally familiar with the charity or program beyond name recognition, research before donating. Some "charities" have a particularly bad reputation for not using the donations for the purposes intended by donors. For example, I received a call requesting a donation for a police welfare association. I asked the caller two questions which, by law, must be answered: "Are you a professional fundraiser?" He said, "Yes." "What percentage of the money raised goes to funding the projects?" He said 16%. Needless to say, I did not donate.

There are some unbiased organizations that provide assistance in doing research before donating: www.charitynavigator.org, www.charitywatch.org, www.give.org, and www.guidestar.org. Their websites provide commentary and ratings that include information on transparency and dedication to the cause the organization supports.

A final word – give locally. There are organizations in your community or county that need help and with which you are able to see the fruits of their labor.

3. Utility Fraud – During the winter months, we witness a dramatic increase in the number of fraudulent phone calls made in the name of local power companies. These calls threaten cuts in electrical service due to missed or insufficient payment of a bill. The scammer uses intimidation and fear, usually requesting gift cards for immediate payment. In many cases, the criminal will wait on the phone until the cards are obtained.

Some general tips: Legitimate companies and government agencies do not accept gift cards as payment. As soon as payment by gift card is requested, hang up the phone. Keep in mind, consumers are protected by a set of laws that prevent termination of vital services unless specific steps are taken by the utility company, including written notice of service termination.

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

featured pets

Beagles lovers, we are looking for you! We currently have four beagles longing for loving homes. Randy is 4, Darnell is 8, Dorthy is 12, and Sadie is 14. As with every beagle, all of them are sweet and adore people. For more information, go to our Facebook page photo album marked "Adoptable Dogs" or call 802-885-3997. To apply to adopt, go to our website www.spfldhumane.org and fill out an application. We are open by appointment only.

Springfield Humane Society, 401 Skitchewaug Trail, Springfield, Vt. 802-885-3997, www.spfldhumane.org

Cybersecurity Class for Businesses

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Town Library, in collaboration with Black River Innovation Campus, will host a cybersecurity class on Thursday, Dec. 15, at 4:30 p.m., on the second floor of the library.

Join Jason Black, Program Manager at the Black River Innovation Campus, who will show owners and employees how to stay safe online while growing their business, and protect themselves against cyber attacks.

Jason is a technology and digital communications professional with two decades of higher education, and non-profit experience in team leadership, digital storytelling and web communications, information technology and systems/product development, and collegiate training and instruction.

Funding for the digital literacy classes and associated equipment has been provided by AT&T and the Public Library Association. Additional funding has been provided by ByWater Solutions and the Friends of Springfield Town Library.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SUBMISSIONS

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

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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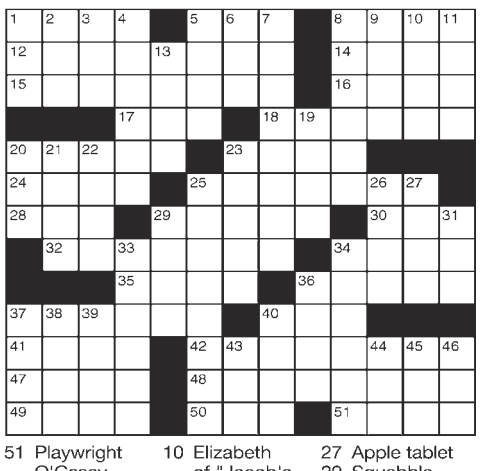
King Crossword



ACROSS
1 Singer Lovett
5 "Ben-Hur" studio
8 Beanies
12 "Madam Secretary" actress
14 Opposite of "sans"
15 Very hungry
16 Gambling city
17 Coq au —
18 Painter Georges
20 Watched surreptitiously
23 Pot covers
24 Any time now
25 Stuffed Italian pasta
28 Boy king
29 Doctrine
30 NYPD alert
32 Gulches
34 Potter's medium
35 New newts
36 Tint
37 Import duty
40 JFK info
41 Portent
42 Enraptured
47 Theater award
48 Eternally
49 Variety
50 Still, in verse
51 Playwright O'Casey

DOWN
1 USPS delivery
2 Pro vote
3 Restroom, for short
4 Football team
5 Earth circler
6 Bearded beast
7 Written messages
8 Tenor Enrico
9 Say it's so
10 Elizabeth of "Jacob's Ladder"
11 Highlander
13 Oklahoma city
19 Redact
20 Retired jet
21 Serve coffee
22 Greek vowel
23 Highway divisions
25 Cheap way to live
26 Chorus syllables
27 Apple tablet
29 Squabble
31 "See ya!"
33 Like marble
34 Great divides
36 Commotion
37 Grabbed
38 Both (Pref.)
39 Check
40 Divisible by two
43 St. crosser
44 Weed whacker
45 Notable time
46 Lair

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CHURCH SERVICES

ALSTEAD, N.H.

Third Congregational Church UCC, River St.
Sunday worship begins at 11 a.m., led by Pastor Maureen Adams. Communion is the first Sunday of each month. For more information, email alsteadthirdchurch@gmail.com, call 603-835-6358, or go to www.facebook.com/Third-Congregational-UCC-Church-of-Alstead-NH-120645387960916.

ASCUTNEY, VT.

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

Bow Baptist Church, 1102 Route 5, Weathersfield Bow
Sunday services are 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. and Wednesday Bible Study and prayer at 7 p.m. For more information, call 802-546-4902.

BELLOWS FALLS, VT.

United Church of Bellows Falls, UCC, 8 School St.
Worship is held on Sundays at 10 a.m. Bible Study is Wednesdays at 2 p.m.

CAVENDISH, VT.

St. James United Methodist Church, 570 Main St.
Please join us Sundays at 8:45 a.m. with Pastor John Hawkins. All are welcome. For more information, call 802-674-3443 or go to www.facebook.com/stjamesumcproctorsville.

CHARLESTOWN, N.H.

Charlestown Bible Church, 37 Hammond Rd,
Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship at 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 7 p.m. To hear a sermon or learn more go to www.charlestownbiblechurch.org. Call 603-826-5121 for more info or to request a personal Bible study.

Charlestown Seventh-day Adventist Church, 242 Main St.
Saturday Services include Bible Study at 9:30 a.m. and Worship Service at 11:15 a.m. and a healthy lunch for all after the service. Masks are optional. All are welcome, call 603-276-2383 for more information.

CHESTER, VT.

First Universalist Parish of Chester, Route 103 North
Services are Sundays at 10 a.m. in person. Sunday services run from September to early June.

Chester Baptist Church, 162 Main St.
Worship is Sundays at 10:30 a.m. For more information, including online streaming, go to www.chesterbaptist.org.

GRAFTON, VT.

Grafton Community Church, 55 Main St.
Worship begins Sunday at 10 a.m. Masks are requested if unvaccinated and suggested for all singing and response. View sermons on Zoom. For more information, go to www.graftoncommunitychurch.org or call 802-843-2346.

LUDLOW, VT.

Ludlow Baptist Church, on the Green, 99 Main St.
Weekly worship services are in-person. Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. for all ages, and Sunday worship is at 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday's prayer meeting is at 6:30 p.m. For more information, go to www.LudlowBaptist.org.

Tyson Community Church, Corner of Rt. 100 and Dublin Rd., opposite Echo Lake Inn.
Services are Sundays at 10:30 a.m. No service last Sunday of the month. In-person and via Zoom. Email terry.bascom@pm.me or call 802-228-2480.

SPRINGFIELD, VT.

Calvary Baptist Church, 156 Main St.
Sunday services are 9:30 a.m. in person. Please wear a mask, socially distance, and stay home if you're unwell. Services are still streamed at www.facebook.com/calvarybaptistchurchspringfieldvt. For more information, go to www.calvarylovesspringfield.com.

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 90 Park St.
Sunday Liturgy is 9:30 a.m. and Saturday vespers at 5 p.m. The church is now at full capacity with state restrictions lifted. For more information, call 802-885-2615 or Parish Council President Thomas Barton at 802-263-5719.

Springfield Assembly of God, 269 River St.
Sunday morning service is 10 a.m. Evening service is 6 p.m. All services and in-church activities have resumed. Masks are available and social distancing is encouraged. The sanctuary seating is arranged to promote distancing. Go to www.facebook.com/Springfield-Assembly-of-God-156583214402910 for links and more information.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 33 Fairground Rd.
Sunday Services 8:30 a.m. - Holy Days as announced. Services alternate between Clergy Officiated, Traditional Rite I and Contemporary Rite II, Holy Eucharist, and Licensed Lay Led Rites I and II Morning Prayer. All are invited regardless of religious affiliation. Call David at 802-885-2972 with questions.

St. Mary's Catholic Church, 10 Pleasant St.
Sunday mass is at 9 a.m., followed by coffee hour as well as weekday services. To watch the live streams, go to www.youtube.com and search Holy Family Parish Springfield Vermont. Streaming is available five minutes before the service starts. For more information, go to www.stmaryjoseph.com.

obituaries

Vera E. Carpenter, 1933-2022

BRIDGEWATER, Vt. – Vera E. Carpenter, 89, passed away Friday, Nov. 25, 2022, at home surrounded by family. She was born March 11, 1933, in Bridgewater, Vt., the daughter of George and Ruth Fish. She attended school in Woodstock, Vt.

She married Bernard Carpenter and they lived in Cleveland, Ohio. Later, they moved to Hartland, Vt., and also lived in Ascutney, Vt. for a few years.

Vera worked as a cook in the Hartland schools and enjoyed doing voluntary work.

She knit many beautiful sweaters for family and friends, and enjoyed sewing and clogging.

She is survived by her children Lorraine, Terry (Frank), Chip (Marilyn), Gary (Donna), Cathy (Dennis), Susan, Linda, Deb (Marshall), Tom (Cindy), David (Becky), Lisa (Bill), Mark (Larissa), and Todd (Kim).

Vera E. Carpenter, 1933-2022.
PHOTO PROVIDED

She has many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-greats!

She was predeceased by her husband Bernard; her parents; her brothers Henry, Harold, Roy, and Vernon (Vera's twin); sister Gladys; and two granddaughters Amy Parent and Wendy LeDuc.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Davis Memorial Chapel is assisting with the arrangements.

Stephen Seitz, 1956-2022

CHESTER, Vt. – Author and longtime area reporter Stephen Seitz died of a heart attack at home on Nov. 18, 2022. He was born on Dec. 1, 1956.

Steve loved being a reporter, especially when it allowed him to interview prominent figures from history, politicians, and celebrities. One highlight for him was when longtime White House reporter Helen Thomas complimented his questioning technique.

The most recent of Steve's three Sherlock Holmes pastiches, "Sherlock Holmes and the House of Pain," was ranked 39th on "Mystery Tribune's 106 Best Sherlock Holmes Books For Avid Fans: 2022 Edition." His Ace Herron novels have also gotten good reviews.

Born in Providence, R.I., Stephen attended schools in Chester and Brattleboro, Vt., before getting his B.A. in Communications from UVM. After graduation, he moved to Washington D.C., where he worked a variety of government and private sector jobs, writing the nation's coal report for the Department of Energy and working with Watergate special prosecutor Archibald Cox at Common Cause.

Steve was predeceased by his father John Seitz and his brother James Seitz. He is survived by wife Susan Austin, son Daniel Seitz (Alaina), his mother Sylvia Adams Seitz, sisters Susan Seitz (Ed Cohen) and Sharon Annis (Eric), sister-in-law Brenda Seitz, and extended families on both sides.

William "Bill" Eastman, 1942-2022

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – William "Bill" Norman Eastman, 79, passed away Sunday, Nov. 20, 2022, at his home in Killen, Ala. He was born Dec. 14, 1942, in Springfield, Vt., the son of Norman and Norma Eastman.

He attended schools in Springfield, graduating in 1960. Bill was a remarkable auto body technician, employed at Kelley Chrysler for many years.

He was a member of the Lord's church.

He is survived by his wife of almost 60 years, Nancy (Wilder) Eastman; his sons Shawn, Quint, and Lance; grandsons Thomas and Taylor; sisters Dolores Eastman of Springfield, Vt. and Linda Rutter of Lima, Ohio; as well as nieces and nephews.

He was preceded by his parents, sister Carol Kangas, and brother Rick Eastman.

A private family service will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Heart Association.

Anthony "Tony" Taylor Gillette, 1947-2022

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Anthony "Tony" Taylor Gillette, 74, resident of Springfield, Vt., passed away surrounded by family on Dec. 2, 2022. He was born in Springfield, Vt. on Dec. 20, 1947.

Anthony Gillette, 1947-2022.
PHOTO PROVIDED

He is survived by his wife Darlyn Walker-Gillette, daughter Kelley Gillette, son Daniel Gillette, and beloved cat Spanky. He is also survived by his brother Mitchell and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was preceded in death by son Anthony Taylor Gillette II, parents Cleon "Joe" and Mafalda "Muffy" Gillette, and sister Linda Gillette Stevens.

Tony grew up in Springfield, Vt. As a child he participated in many sports, his favorite being basketball. He graduated from Springfield High School in 1965 and moved to New Haven, Conn. to attend the Culinary Institute of America. After his graduation he moved to Miami Beach, Fla., where he worked in numerous hotels as a chef. He later returned to the Culinary Institute of America in N.Y. as an instructor where he taught for four years. He then relocated to Fort Lauderdale, Fla. to open a restaurant called The Historic Bryan Homes Restaurant, a site that he developed himself. During his career, he advanced in different departments, including research and development in St. Louis, Mo. and was the Food and Beverage Director at several Nevada casinos. He also had many awards and accomplishments, including being featured in "The Chocolatier" as well as many other culinary magazines.

During his time in Florida, he had three children whom he loved dearly. He enjoyed golfing with his sons and watching Gator football with his daughter. He later retired to his hometown of Springfield, Vt. where he met his current wife. During his retirement he took pleasure in experiencing new restaurants, antique model trains, and restoring his hot rod, which he took on joyrides with his best friend Gordy. He was known for his dry sense of humor, engaging public speaking skills, striking blue eyes, and infectious smile. He will be truly missed and loved forever.

A Celebration of Life will be held for family and friends at the VFW in Springfield, Vt. on Friday, Dec. 9, 2022 from 4-7 p.m. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make a donation to the Springfield Humane Society at www.spfldhumane.org.

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calendar

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HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

DEC. 10 –
ANDOVER, Vt. – There will be a Pancake Breakfast hosted by the Andover Snowmobile Club Dec. 10 from 8-10 p.m. at the Andover Town Hall. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be present, arriving via fire truck, courtesy of the Chester Fire Dept. Bring a camera to take a photo with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Donations welcomed and accepted.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – There will be a kids Christmas party Saturday, Dec. 10 from 1-3 p.m. at the American Legion Post #37, 42 Rockingham Street, Bellows Falls. Open to all children of the community 12 and younger. There will be snacks, presents and a chance to talk to Santa starting at 1:30 p.m.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield United Methodist Church is having a Cookie and Bake sale during the Springfield Farmer's Market on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. We look forward to seeing you at the Springfield UMC at 10 Valley St., Springfield, VT 05156

EVENTS & MORE

DEC. 11 –
BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Folk musician Tom Pirozzoli returns to Stage 33 Live for a rare performance on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 6 p.m., 33 Bridge St. in Bellows Falls, Vt. Corey Wrinn will open. Limited seating; recorded and filmed. With Tom's blessing, advance tickets are discounted, or available at the door. Tickets and more information about this and other events, visit www.stage33live.com.

SUNDAYS –
CHESTER, Vt. – Six Loose Ladies hosts Odd Bobbins Spinners the second Sunday of each month from 1-4 p.m. at their location on the Common in Chester.

MONDAYS –
WALPOLE, N.H. – Meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in St. John's Parish Hall, Walpole.

WESTON, Vt. – Bingo is Monday nights at 7 p.m. at the Weston Rod & Gun Club, 982 Route 100, 1.5 miles north of Weston Village. All are welcome.

TUESDAYS –
LUDLOW, Vt. – Zumba classes, Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. All fitness levels welcome. Call 802-228-1419 for more information.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Senior Solutions is sponsoring Tai Chi classes on Tuesdays at the Great Hall, Pearl St., Springfield, Vt. Intermediate-advanced classes will meet from 9:30–10:30 a.m. and beginner classes will meet from 10:40–11:40 a.m. For more information, contact Wendi Germain at wgermain@seniorsolutionsvt.org.

WEDNESDAYS –
CHESTER, Vt. – Bone Builders Class in Chester every Wednesday, from 10-11 a.m. Classes will be held in the First Universalist Parish of Chester community room. Classes are free and open to all. Drop-in class, no registration needed. For details, contact Barbara at bwquilter1778@gmail.com.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Frances Barsky leads a weekly creative writing workshop at the Rockingham Library from 1–2:30 p.m. Bring a laptop or a pen and paper.

THURSDAYS –
CHESTER, Vt. – Knit Knite at Six Loose Ladies on the Chester Common Thursdays, from 5-8 p.m., and via Zoom, from 7-8 p.m.

WALPOLE, N.H. – Alcoholics Anonymous women's meeting, a 12-step recovery program for women who have a desire to stop drinking, is happening every Thursday at 6 p.m. at the St. John's Episcopal Church at the corner of Westminster and Elm streets in Walpole, N.H. For more information, call Viva at 802-732-8330.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Genealogy enthusiast Wayne Blanchard will be at the Rockingham Library on Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. If you own a laptop, please bring it along. Both beginners and seasoned genealogists are welcome.

FRIDAYS –
BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On Fridays from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m., John Bohannon will teach Tai Chi and Qi Gong at the Rockingham Library in Bellows Falls, Vt. No special equipment or clothing is required.

SATURDAYS –
SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Edgar May Health and Recreation Center offers Springfield residents the opportunity to come for a free swim every Saturday, from 1-3 p.m. For more information, call 802-885-2568

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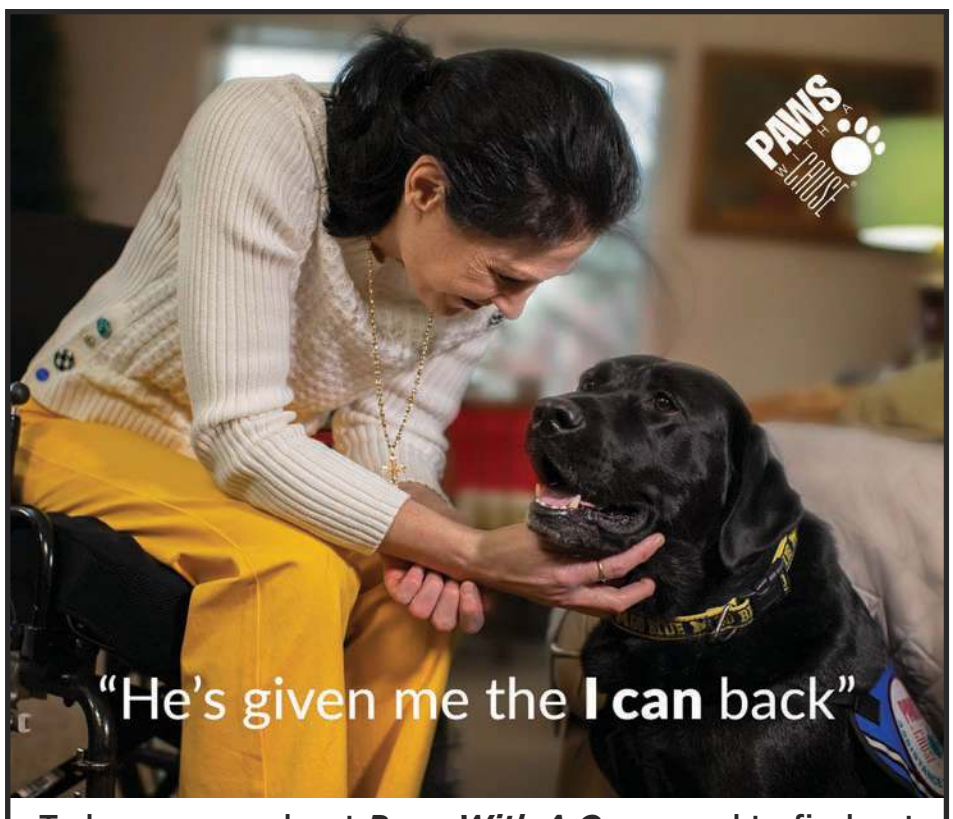

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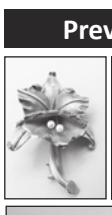
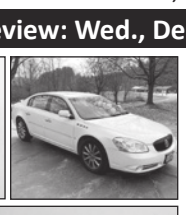

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REGION – Guns wanted. Handguns, rifles, or shotguns. Top prices paid. Call Ray at 802-775-2859 or 802-236-7213.

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SNOW PLOWING

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

HCRS new staff

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS), southeastern Vermont's community mental-health agency is pleased to announce the appointment of 15 new professionals hired during October and November whose talents will augment HCRS' services in the Bellows Falls, Brattleboro, Hartford, Springfield, and Windsor regions.

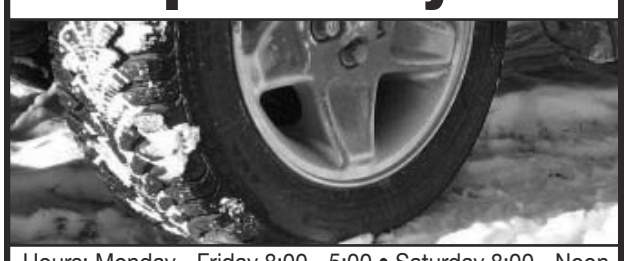
October hires include, Howard Bronson - Crisis Intervention Specialist in Brattleboro, Karen Dale - School-Based Behavioral Interventionist in Brattleboro, Christopher Ficklin - Direct Support Professional (Community) in Windsor & Hartford, Eva Grimaldi - Clinician I in Brattleboro, Amanda McHugh - Community Outreach Specialist in White River Junction, James Primrose - Vocational Program Coordinator at Kindle Farm, Erin Rice - Community Outreach Specialist in White River Junction, Gayle Underhill-Plum - Direct Support Professional (Employment) in Windsor & Hartford, Jean Warner - Area Manager in Bellows Falls, Ryan Wood - School-Based Behavioral Interventionist in Springfield.

November hires include, Trevor Beaudry - Vocational Teacher Sub at Kindle Farm, Kimberly Becker - Toy Cleaner in Windsor & Hartford, Lana Dever - Case Manager II in Brattleboro, Tina Hanson - Residential Specialist at Alternatives, Kailen Lott - Classroom Assistant at Kindle Farm.

These new hires will support the non-profit agency's comprehensive mental health, substance use disorder, and developmental disability programs, which serve 4,000 individuals annually across Windsor and Windham Counties.

HCRS is a nonprofit, community mental health agency, serving 4,000 individuals every year through its mental health, substance abuse, and developmental disabilities programs. The Agency provides holistic care for clients, supporting them with employment, housing, transportation, and other social service needs. Visit www.hcrs.org for more information.

Walpole Valley Tire



Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 - 5:00 • Saturday 8:00 - Noon
Route 12 • Walpole, NH • 603-445-2060

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

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

PLYMOUTH TOWN CLERK POSITION

The Plymouth Select Board is accepting resumes for the position of Town Clerk.

The responsibilities include providing citizens with accurate and vital information, assisting the treasurer and tax collector, registration renewals of motor vehicles, vital records administration, including processing marriage licenses, birth and death certificates, dog licensing, maintaining town records and documents, managing voter registration and other election related business, such as presiding over election day in coordination with the BCA.

The Clerk is also responsible for recording and posting the minutes of Select Board meetings, and other publicly warned meetings and hearings, including the Board of Civil Authority. An understanding of applicable state laws, rules and regulations pertaining to the governing of town business is required.

It is the intention of the Select Board to ask the voters to allow them to appoint the Town Clerk position and Treasurer position at the March 2023 town meeting.

The town office is open Monday thru Thursday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

This position requires the applicant to be able to work confidently and independently.
A high school diploma or equivalent and being a Plymouth town resident are the minimum qualifications. Training and start up orientation will be available. This is a full – time position with a full benefit package. Hourly wage is dependent on experience and qualifications.
Please submit a cover letter, resume, and three references to the Plymouth Town Clerk @ clerk@plymouthvt.org or in person.

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TOWN OF WALPOLE
RECORDING SECRETARY VACANCY

The Selectboard of the Town of Walpole is seeking a Recording Secretary. Job duties include:

- Attending Selectboard and Staff Meetings held at the Town Hall on the Thursday evenings.
- Transcribing minutes for scheduled meetings.

Applicants may submit a letter of interest and resume to the Town of Walpole Selectboard Office, 34 Elm Street, PO Box 729, Walpole, NH 03608. For more information, call 603-756-3672 or visit walpolenh.us for a job application and description.

INVITATION TO BID
The Town of Andover is seeking Bids for purchase of its 2015 Ford F550 XL

Please submit bids for purchase of a 2015 Ford F550 XL with side dump spreader body and 10' Everest plow. Bids will be received until 3:00 p.m. on Monday, December 12th and will be opened at the Selectboard Meeting at 6:30 p.m. that evening at the Andover Town Office. For more information, please contact Charlie Golden, 802-875-3247, garageandover@gmail.com

Send sealed bids to:
Andover Town Office – Truck
953 Weston Andover Road
Andover, Vermont 05143

The Town of Andover reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Dated at Andover this 29th day of November, 2022
Jeanette Haight, Town Clerk

ATTENTION ALL CURRENT AND FORMER CLIENTS OF MASSUCCO & STERN, P.C.:

Massucco & Stern, P.C., formerly known as Massucco Law Office, P.C., of Bellows Falls, Vermont, is winding down its law practice operations following the death of L. Raymond Massucco and will be closing its doors on or around January 16, 2023. As such, the law firm is no longer accepting new clients. If you wish to obtain your file, please contact our office by no later than January 9, 2023.

Please contact our office at (802) 463-3303, or by mail at 90 Westminster St., Bellows Falls, VT 05101, to discuss the transition and referral of pending matters to other counsel, as well as the transfer of any funds held in our trust account. Those files which are not claimed prior to January 16, 2023 will be destroyed.

Following the closure of the firm, Attorney Josh Stern will be focusing exclusively on criminal defense work, at least for the foreseeable future, and will be continuing to represent his criminal defense clients. As of January 1, 2023, he may be reached by mail at P.O. Box 534, Bellows Falls, Vermont 05101, by telephone at (802) 376-4764, or by email at sternlawvt@gmail.com.

yellow page BUSINESS DIRECTORY

$150 for 13 Weeks • $250 for 26 Weeks • $400 for 52 Weeks
Prices are based on a 20 word listing. An additional 50 cents for each word thereafter.

Art Crafts Gifts

GALLERY AT THE VAULT
Vermont State Craft Center
68 Main St., Springfield 802-885-7111
Open Wed. 11-5, Fri. 11-7, Sat. 11-5

Dec. 3 Holiday Open House 11-5
Moravian Star Demo by Robin Bickel (11:30-1:30)
French Pastry Tasting with Stephanie Taft (1-3)
Music on Flute & Keyboard by Kathy Byam & Karen Engdahl (1-3)

A Festival of Color, Open Wall Show

Shop Handmade: Ornaments, Stocking Stuffers, Craft Kits, Cards, Woodenware, Pottery and Glass

https://galleryvault.org/
(01/18/23 - TFN - 13)

Builders/Contractors

APEX VENTURES, LLC - HOUSE PAINTING
Booking interior painting for the winter. Also booking exterior painting for the spring and summer of 2023. Houses, decks, porches, garages and barns. Email adam@apexventures.one for a free quote.
(02/08/23 - 13)

HAMMER FOR HIRE LLC
"Not just for bangin' nails."

We handle a variety of projects, from home repairs, restorations on up to full renovations, and new construction too. Our clients can expect professionalism, proficiency, customer care, and quality. Call or email today at 802-376-3275 edwin.mortensen@gmail.com.
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(11/22/23 - 52)

PETER JORDAN CONSTRUCTION
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(12/14/22 - 13)

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(11/22/23 - 52)

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Full hook up sites, pull thru, and tent sites. Views of Okemo! Large Private Sites!
(12/07/22 - 13)

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(08/11/23 - TFN - 52)

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Specializing in all Stone Masonry Applications including veneer, walls, patios, walkways. Fully insured. Free estimates. 32 years experience. Contact Dan Field at 802-384-0122 or stoneart49@gmail.com or visit drcstonedesign.com.
(02/22/23 - 13)

Okemo Valley TV

Watch on TV: Community Channel: Comcast 1076 & VTel 166
Education / Gov't Channel: Comcast 1086 / VTel 167
(TV Schedules available at okemovalley.tv/schedules & on cable TV program guide)

Watch Online: okemovalley.tv & youtube.com/okemovalleytv

"Gavel-to-Gavel" coverage of local meetings (playing daily on Ed. / Gov. channel)
(Meeting Playback Guide available at bottom of okemovallley.tv/schedule)
(01/04/23 - TFN - 13)

Scrap Metal Wanted

Call Chet for free removal of scrap metal. Also buying scrap cars. Call 802-875-3788.
(12/14/22 - 13)

holiday happenings

PopUP Holiday Market

CHESTER, Vt. – On Sunday, Dec. 11, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. there will be a PopUP Holiday Market held at the American Legion, Post 67, on Route 103 in Chester. Brought to you by PopUP Sundays, at Sharon's on the Common. Open to the public, with free admission and plenty of parking.

Over 20 local entrepreneurs will be selling their creations of crafts, photography, jewelry, wood working, candles, soaps, fiber art, cookie decorating, pasta, hand knit sweaters, ornaments, and more.

There will also be a light lunch offered by the Stone Hearth Inn & Eatery.

Come and join the fun.

Rockingham Library holiday party and raffle

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – On Saturday, Dec. 10, the Friends of the Rockingham Library will host a community holiday party from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. The public is invited to this free event. There will be plenty of holiday refreshments, and live music.

Winning tickets for the friends' holiday raffle will be drawn. The silent auction winners will be announced as well. Stop by the library anytime to see the prizes. Silent auction items include tickets to Ray Massucco's Memorial Concert Event and a LUCI solar inflatable light and charger. Raffle items include holiday garlands of hand-felted hearts, a selection of knitting books, a variety of gourmet teas in lovely canisters, children's books, toys, and games. Raffle tickets are being sold at the front desk. All proceeds from the silent auction and raffle will benefit the Friends of the Rockingham Library.

For more information, email programming@rockinghamlibrary.org, call 802-463-4270, or stop by the library at 65 Westminster St. in Bellows Falls, Vt.

Grace Cottage
Wishes You Happy Holidays!
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FAMILY HEALTH & HOSPITAL
gracecottage.org • Townshend, VT • 802-365-7357

Kids Christmas Party
Saturday, December 10th
1:00 - 3:00 pm
Open to All Children of the Community 12 & Younger
Snacks, Presents, Meet Santa at 1:30, and receive a new toy from Jolly ol' Santa Claus
American Legion Post #37
42 Rockingham Street, Bellows Falls • 802-463-9700
CMDR/Chair Pete Squires // Pub. Rel. Smokey Aumand

Art Gym Holiday Crafting

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield Art Gym will open their doors on Sunday, Dec. 11, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. to make hanging stars, cards, and Christmas tags. There will be instructions for the stars and ideas for cards and tags. We have lots of materials available. Join us for creative afternoon. Checkout the Springfield Art Gym's Facebook page or email dpiletz@comcast.net for more information.

Annual "Elves on Main Street" scavenger hunt

LUDLOW, Vt. – On Nov. 25, Engel & Völkers Okemo and 20 local organizations announced the commencement of "Elves on Main Street," a seasonal scavenger hunt in Ludlow Village, offering raffle prizes donated by participating organizations.

Each "Elves on Main Street" partner organization hides one elf, wish box, and raffle tickets. Contestants who spy an elf are entered to win a prize from each elf's participating location, by completing and submitting a raffle ticket to its wish box. Contestants qualify to win a prize for every elf they find, and some may win different prizes from different locations.

For each elf, there is only one prize available, including gift cards and baskets from local staples, like Brewfest, Blue Sky Trading Co., Café at DeLight, and the town hall. But contestants who find and submit tickets for all of the elves are automatically entered to win the grand prize: a $250 gift certificate to Homestyle Hotel. Elves are identifiable by name, which hints at their location within Ludlow Village. A list of elves and participating locations is now available at the Engel & Völkers Okemo blog.

Engel & Völkers Okemo launched "Elves on Main Street" in 2021 to help ease the isolation of pandemic-era restrictions. That year, the Ludlow-based real estate brokerage teamed up with 11 retail partners for a month-long holiday activity designed to invite people back into the heart of the community: the village.

In the scavenger hunt's second year, the number of partners ballooned to 20, widening the playing field to businesses beyond Main Street. Engel & Völkers broadened the concept, to match. Starting Thanksgiving week, villagers and visitors are invited to enjoy a festive photo fixture installed by local artist Morgan Skiathitis, displayed in front of the brokerage through the New Year.

"Last year, we conceived 'Elves on Main Street' as a fun way to bring together our community, support each other, and add a little levity to our lives," said Engel & Völkers owner and broker Gail Beardmore. "To our delight, it was a hit! We now have 20-or so participants hiding elves around our little village, and I hope, bringing us all together in the process."

The 2022 "Elves on Main Street" contest runs in the Village of Ludlow, Vt. from Friday, Nov. 25 – Tuesday, Dec. 27. Winners will be announced on Wednesday, Dec. 28, and are solely responsible for retrieving their prize(s) from its connected location.

For more information, visit www.okemo.evrealestate.com or contact Cara Philbin at cara.philbin@evrealestate.com

Chester holiday fine art, craft fair, and bake sale

CHESTER, Vt. – The First Universalist Parish of Chester and the Stone Village Art Guild will hold a holiday craft fair, fine art show, and bake sale on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.

This holiday shopping event will feature fabric baskets, jewelry, ornaments, mittens, holiday floral arrangements, and more.

The bake sale will offer pies, breads, cookies, and candy.

Fine art painted by Stone Village Art Guild members will fill the sanctuary. Guild members meet weekly and will show works in acrylic, watercolor, pastels, and oil. Art will be for sale.

The First Universalist Parish is located at 211 North St., Rte. 103, in Chester's Stone Village. For more information contact Melody at 802-875-5414.

"Star of Wonder" Christmas concert

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – New Hampshire's own vibrant female duo, The Becker Sisters, invite you to their Christmas Concert, "Star of Wonder," at Charlestown Bible Church in Charlestown, N.H., Dec. 13, at 7 p.m. Kirsten and Alyssa Becker will be performing a variety of holiday favorites, including "I'll Be Home for Christmas," "Winter Wonderland," Carol of the Bells," and an array of traditional carols, including "O Holy Night," "Mary Did You Know," and "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing." Enjoy Alyssa's soaring voice and guitar, and Kirsten's sensitive touch on the piano. Join us for this special night of festive music. Admission by donation. Check out their Facebook page for more information @The Becker Sisters.

A.C.T. Christmas Party

LUDLOW, Vt. – A local charity, Assisting Children Today, is delighted to host a Christmas party on Saturday, Dec. 17 and everyone is invited. The event will be held at Calcuttas at Fox Run Golf Club in Ludlow. Admission is free.

Bring your children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, friends, and neighbors. Santa will be there from 2–8 p.m. to hand out gifts to all children who attend. A free buffet will be offered from 4–7 p.m. We have invited many of our local fire departments to participate in the festivities as well. We look forward to seeing everyone there to share the joy of the holiday season.

Join the Assisting Children Today Christmas Party.
PHOTO PROVIDED

For more information on Assisting Children Today, please visit our website at www.assistingchildrentoday.org.

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