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Rockingham Meeting House needs repairs —

BY JOE MILLIKEN
The Shopper

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. — The Rockingham Meeting House, a historic landmark located along Route 103 just north of Bellows Falls, and the oldest public building in Vermont, needs extensive structural and historical repairs, including an assessment of the structure's original foundation, which could ultimately cost an estimated \$1.4 million.

In June of 2022, the Town of Rockingham issued a request for proposal (RFP) for the development of a Historic Structures Report for the meeting house. A historic preservation consultant in Putney, Lyssa Papazian, accepted the RFP and put together an experienced team that she has worked with on other projects, including preservation architect Laz Scangas, and preservation engineer Bob Neeld.

"We were selected after interviews last August, although we actually had started work before that with a building scan in order to stay on schedule with follow up," Papazian stated in a late-February interview. "The team has

continued to work on the project, with several site visits in order to conduct investigation, analysis, and documentation."

A game plan is currently being developed by the town for the restoration project, and based on a review of past work, it was recommended that the instability of the foundation is the most pressing problem to address.

"Test pits and scanning of the building showed that drainage in the very fine soils below and around the building have created an especially vulnerable condition to frost heaving — which has continued over much of the building's history," Papazian said. "The reopening of previously repaired cracks, and the deflection in the woodwork despite past surface drainage work and sill-replacement, indicates that there is still an underlying problem."

"Our recommendation is that this issue should be addressed first to stabilize the structure for the long term, so that all other repair and restoration work done moving forward will not be at risk from continued movement."

The total cost estimates

are still preliminary, with more research and meetings with town and code officials currently in the works in order to refine and complete the plan. The initial draft estimate numbers were offered in the "draft conditions assessment and cost estimate."

A number of items were listed in the report, including the aforementioned foundation work, restoration of all the windows, repair and replacement of siding and exterior trim, roof repairs and exterior painting, interior plaster and woodworking restoration, and code-compliant interior access and required emergency and exit lighting and signage.

"The draft assessment and cost estimate was presented and the team is meeting with code officials, historic preservation state officials, and the town to talk through different options for both meeting code and protecting the historic character of the building. Additionally, the cost estimate does not include structural reinforcement of first floor framing."

Bellows Falls Trustees share water data

BY BETSY THURSTON
The Shopper

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. — On Tuesday, April 25, the Bellows Falls Village Trustees discussed the Bellows Falls Water Department and upcoming state tracking information.

Municipal Manager Scott Pickup said the State of Vermont is looking at additional problems they are finding with ponds and tracking where problems might occur in water sources, especially municipal sources that come from a natural water system. Pickup said Rockingham had signed up to participate and hoped the report would provide information to help avoid what others are experiencing; blue-green algae and other problems that are occurring around the State.

Pickup said, to be "100% transparent, there were no issues" currently,

even with the manganese issue. He agreed that this is a good program to join and said they would consider any recommendations or best practices made by the state.

Village President Deborah Wright asked if the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) that was provided by the water department always covers the previous year. Pickup said it takes the prior year's data into account.

Trustee Wade Masure confirmed the study will track data from July 11 to Nov. 7.

Wright affirmed that this was a no-cost analysis. Pickup said it will be interesting and they will report any findings or activity to the board.

Pickup said, "protecting that pond is really important, obviously."

The CCR or water quality report is a snapshot of the quality of the water provided to Bellows Falls water consumers in 2022. In the report, the department

shares water sources, contaminants, data, and health and distribution information. The report explains contaminants, some of which are harmful, and others, such as iron and sulfur, which are not.

The water department tests the water regularly according to regulations by the Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Vermont. These regulations limit the amounts of said contaminants.

The CCR is available for viewing on the Town of Rockingham website, www.rockinghamvt.org.

The Bellows Falls Village Trustees annual meeting is Monday, May 15, at the Bellows Falls Opera House, with voting at the Masonic Temple on Tuesday. Current President Deborah Wright and Paul Obuchowski are running for village president. There are two open seats for village trustees; this year's candidates are current trustees James McAuliffe and Stefan Golec, Conor Floyd, and Deborah Wright.

Grafton Rescue honors longtime volunteers

GRAFTON, Vt. — The Grafton Rescue Squad recently recognized three of its longtime members who collectively have volunteered over 115 years of service as emergency medical responders. These three responders, Stan Mack, Eric Stevens, and Cathy Siano Goodwin, are well known in the region not only due to their service with Grafton Rescue, but because of their involvement in various other community and emergency service organizations throughout the years. Stan was one of the founding members of Grafton Rescue when it was organized in 1981 as the First Aid Stabilization Team, or FAST Squad. Eric joined shortly after in 1982, and he and Stan were among the first members to become licensed EMTs. Cathy joined a few years later, and became the first advanced level EMT on the squad.

In his comments at a recognition event, current Grafton Rescue President Keith Hermiz said that "over their years of volunteering, these three responded to thousands of calls. They cared for the sick and injured, they tried to save the dying, and they acknowledged the dead and comforted their loved ones. Many, many people were touched by, and are grateful for, what they did. But as all first responders know, doing these things

for even one year can be punishing. They each did it for decades. The journey of the emergency medical provider is always uphill. We must constantly upgrade our skills to meet the changes in protocol and accepted medical practice. We must constantly train to keep our skills sharp, remembering that those that we don't use often are possibly the ones most likely to save a life. We must face new risks and train to deal with them: swine flu, Ebola, Covid, monkey pox, terrorism, mass shootings. That uphill journey is challenging enough to endure for a year or two. Stan, Eric, and Cathy did it for 40 years."

Hermiz went on to say, "beyond these considerable burdens of simply being a medical first responder, each of these three members moved our squad forward in their own way. All three served as squad president, which meant they had to deal with all the things that sustain the squad: membership, medical guidance, finances, and operations, to name a few. They had to make decisions about equipment, our trucks, and where we called home. Stan was a founding member, recognizing the need for emergency medical services in Grafton and having the vision to help make that happen. Eric also had vision, and drove the project that resulted in the

construction of our solar powered radio repeater on Bear Hill, a critical communications link for our squad, the fire department, and the town, and he continues to be the force behind its operation. Cathy invested in training to become an advanced provider and, in so doing, enabled the squad to upgrade its license and provide a higher level of care to the community. Stan, Eric and Cathy's contributions serve as the pillars of our Squad's foundation."

Each of the honorees spoke to the group, sharing memories which brought forward laughter and tears, and stories that couldn't be shared anywhere else. Eric Stevens may have summed up the commitment and dedication of all three when he said simply "I like to help people."

Advantage Truck Group honors Eric Chapin with Pete DePina Legacy Award

WESTMINSTER, Vt. — Advantage Truck Group (ATG) has named its 2022 Pete DePina Legacy Award winner for Vermont, recognizing ATG diesel technician and Bellows Falls resident Eric Chapin, who works at ATG's Westminster location, for making an impact on his fellow employees, customers, and the company.

The highest recognition that an ATG employee can receive, this annual award was created as a memorial to ATG employee Napoleon "Pete" DePina, who worked at the company's Shrewsbury facility for 25 years until his untimely death in 2019. Today, the legacy award is given to a person at each ATG location in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont, who most embodies the values and qualities DePina was known for, including integrity and a quiet leadership grounded in humility, generosity, and selfless

service to others. "Our ability to provide the best service and experience for our customers starts with our people," ATG President & CEO Kevin Holmes said. "This award helps us honor those who go beyond expectations, and whose efforts and attitude, like Pete's, elevate the quality of service across our network and make ATG a special place to work."

Holmes announced Chapin as the Pete DePina Legacy Award winner for Vermont during an employee luncheon held at the Westminster facility.

Like Pete DePina, Eric Chapin is described as a person whose leadership and diligence, combined with his willingness to help anyone at any time, makes him highly respected by his ATG team members.

"Eric's wealth of knowledge reflects his nearly 30-year tenure within our network, and his dedication to his trade, and over the years many of our technicians have expanded their knowl-

edge under his guidance," Holmes said. "Now, he also invests his time to train apprentices in our Westminster shop, helping to support the success of the next generation of diesel technicians."

This year, over 100 employees across the ATG network were nominated by their peers for the award, and a winner from each of ATG's eight locations was selected by Holmes and his leadership team. Winners were presented with a monetary award that they will continue to receive as part of their profit-sharing bonus each year throughout their employment with the company.

The largest Daimler Truck North America dealer in New England, ATG offers employees performance pay programs and benefits starting day one, company training programs, and career development and advancement opportunities — all in a culture that is committed to giving back to its communities.

Elks award grants to VA Medical Center, Vets home

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. — Recently, the Springfield Elks Lodge presented \$3,000 worth of supplies and checks to both the Veterans Medical Center in White River Junction, Vt., as well as the Veterans Home in Benning-

ton, Vt. The funds came from a \$6,000 Beacon/Spotlight Grant given to the Lodge by the Elks National Foundation (ENF). The purpose of the grant was to supply the VA with needed materials that the VA center and

veterans home specified that they needed. These grant applications are submitted annually to ENF, and fortunately the Springfield lodge has been the recipient for many years now.



Jim Morse, Springfield Elks Lodge, awarding Michelle Burges, Veterans Home, supplies and a check.

PHOTO PROVIDED

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DEADLINES

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

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GFC coalition meeting

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. — Greater Falls Connections (GFC) will be holding a coalition meeting on Monday, May 8, at 5:30 p.m., at Parks Place Community Resource Center, located at 44 School Street in Bellows Falls, to hear community voices on proposed changes to the vision and mission statements and by-laws.

The director and advisory board reviewed each to ensure they match the work that the board and staff at GFC are doing. You can find the document highlighting the changes located at www.tinyurl.com/GFCproposedbylaws.

Coalition members can share their thoughts and propose changes during the meeting. Who is a coalition

member? Anyone from the WNESU area that thinks that what GFC does is important, volunteered with GFC or has contributed to GFC's work in some way, attended coalition meetings, trainings, or events, followed and shared GFC's social media content, and/or participated in a committee, like the Advisory Board or TAG team.

The board will vote on the proposed changes, including any revisions, in their regular board meeting, which follows immediately after the coalition meeting. All coalition members are invited to stay and learn more about GFC's work. The coalition will then vote on the changes at the annual meeting, which will be held in late June.

If you are unable to attend the meeting and would like to share your comments, which will be read at the meeting, email Neil Allen, Director, at neil@greaterfallsconnections.org, or call 802-463-9927 extension 208. For more information about GFC, visit greaterfallsconnections.org.

Greater Falls Connections is a community coalition based out of Bellows Falls, providing community connections that lead to positive change. GFC also provides resources, workshops, and educational opportunities that help to address the root causes of substance misuse disorders.

Rockingham Library to hold a fair housing workshop

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. — Stop by the Rockingham Library on Friday, May 12, from 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. to

learn more about fair housing and your rights, to shape statewide housing policies with your feedback, and to connect with a local non-profit for housing resources and help. The Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development

will be hosting an information table staffed by friendly, well-informed persons ready to hear what you have to say and share related state resources. This table will be set up on the library's main floor.



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Terrier Hall of Fame nominations open

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. — The Terrier Hall of Fame nominations are now open.

"The Terrier Hall of Fame is proud to announce that we are seeking nominations for our 2023 class. Nominations are open through May 15. We are looking to honor individuals who have 'demonstrated out-

standing contributions to the proud terrier tradition.' The nominee must be a graduate from BFUHS or BFHS that has been out of school for at least 10 years, or was a teacher, staff-member, or coach at BFUHS or BFHS for at least 10 years, or a member of the community that has given to the proud Terrier tradition for a minimum of 10 years."

To submit your nomination

or for more information, please visit www.sites.google.com/wnesu.com/terrierhalloffame/home or email erriehalloffame@gmail.com. You may also submit your nomination on our Facebook page: Terrier Hall of Fame.

The inductees and the date and location for the induction ceremony will be announced in July.

Bellows Falls Woman's Club May meeting

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. — The final meeting of the Bellows Falls Woman's Club year will take place on May 9 at the United Church, 8 School Street. The executive board will host a luncheon for members, beginning at noon. A recap of the year's activities will be discussed. Two directors to serve from 2023-2025 will be installed by General Federation of Women's Clubs-VT State President and local club member Beverley Pallmerine. Preliminary plans for the coming club year, September-

May, will be discussed.

Business was discussed during the April 11 meeting, focused on plans for the May 7 tea and raffle fundraiser, which supports the club's high school scholarship. The tea will be held at the Masonic Temple, 61 Westminster Street, Bellows Falls, from 2-4 p.m. Tea and raffle tickets for four bags of area merchant gift certificates and goods may be purchased from Diane Potter, 802-463-4720. The drawing will be held May 9.

The club has had a successful year with monthly programs, committee

work, fundraising, and outreach to many agencies, organizations, and individuals in area communities. The club thanks the public for its support of the club's work.

The executive board will begin meeting in early summer to plan the next club year's programs and activities.

The local club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.

Springfield Elks March Student of the Month

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. — At a recent awards assembly at Springfield High School, Springfield Elks Lodge named junior Chrisgil Deguzman their March Student of the Month. Ms. Deguzman is the daughter of Cristy Murphy of Springfield.

Her teachers reported that she works hard through whatever challenges come her way. She puts aside stress and pushes through whatever is going on around her to focus. She is kind to her classmates and she has

a great sense of humor. Deguzman is in her last push towards graduation. She needs encouragement to continue on this path, and this month in particular, she has persevered through difficulties in a land strange to her, as she is of Philippine descent, and came to Springfield Schools at Riverside Middle School in the 7th grade. She's in a world where it's difficult for her to find comfort. She really deserves to be Student of the Month.

Ms. Deguzman says her



Chrisgil Deguzman.
PHOTO PROVIDED

favorite subjects are Spanish and math. Outside of school, she is interested in cooking, and playing the guitar.

Bellows Falls Elks March Student of the Month

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. — With pleasure, the Bellows Falls Elks announce that Jake Moore has been named the March Elks Student of the Month for Bellows Falls Union High School (BFUHS). Jake, a senior, is the son of Chris and Jennifer Moore of Saxtons River.

A member of the Jesse A. Judd/Marilee Huntoon National Honor Society at BFUHS, Jake has consistently challenged himself by taking the most demanding and rigorous courses that BFUHS has to offer. He is a problem solver who is very organized and committed to his



Jake Moore.
PHOTO PROVIDED

learning. He has excelled in all of his classes throughout high school.

Jake is an extremely positive young man who models great sportsmanship, kindness, and perseverance. On the field and on the court, win or lose, Jake holds his head high and sets the example of what a true Terrier should be.

He is an asset to any class, group, or activity he joins, and he works hard to make sure all people are included and their views are heard.

Jake has excelled not only in academics, but in sports as well. Serving in the role of captain of the football team, he is not only a leader on the field, but a good role model to young people, many of whom attend the Purple Gang games to see Jake play. He is the ultimate cheerleader, and when he is not playing, he is encouraging his teammates to be the best that they can be. Jake has been a volunteer coach for the Connecticut Valley Pee-Wee Football (CVP-WFL) league for four years. He has also tutored friends who were struggling in their math classes, and has been a valued member of the BFUS Math Team.

Clearly deserving of recognition, BFUHS and Elks are proud to have Jake represent them a Student of the Month.

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The Dorand Forest

BY RON PATCH

802-374-0119
ronpatch27@gmail.com

South of Chester on Route 103, turn onto Upper Bartonville Road. Near the end you'll see Cambridgeport Road. This is a pleasant drive. Pay attention and you'll see the sign with this article.

John Dorand

I didn't know John Dorand, but Bob Turco and Ted Spaulding did. Ted told me early on, Dorand lived on Terrace Street in Chester. Today Terrace Street is Bargfrede Road, which is off Depot Street on the village end.

Ted told me John and his wife didn't speak to each other, but to their dog. John would say to the dog, "Tell mother..." Mrs. Dorand would tell the dog what to tell father.

John Dorand was a successful and well-to-do man who drove a Studebaker. Where the old town garage is today was Chester Wood Products. CWP was run by John, his brother Urban, and their partner Walter Austin. Urban lived in the big white house on the knoll by the old high school.

John boasted he was "strictly honest," but was known to let his thumb slip when scaling logs. Urban had a son, Stanley, who ran the talc mill behind Erskine's. This mill burned to the ground in 1955.

John was a lumber and cattle dealer. He bought woodlots in the area for the timber. The logs were sent to Urban at CWP. Ted said John's father was Pete. After John had cut the valuable timber, he sold the land for \$1 per acre. Hard to believe today, but it's true. In the 1940s my father bought from Craig Reid 100 to 200

acres on Stedman for \$250. I forget the exact acreage now.

John's main business was timber and cattle. He also bought furs and hides. Ted said John had a cattle yard near Salon 2000. He shipped cattle to Brighton, Mass., via the railroad most every week. Ted's family ran the town farm at the time and sold John their veal.

Dutch cheese

Ted didn't know what happened to Mrs. Dorand, whether she died or what, but John remarried. Where Dollar General is today was a house. Here lived John and Emma Smith. Many will remember this place.

Ted said the Smiths weren't well off. They kept a couple cows. Emma made and sold cottage cheese. Ted called it Dutch cheese. My mother also called it Dutch cheese. It's an old term. The Smiths struggled to grub out a living.

Mr. Smith died. That is when John Dorand and Emma Smith hit it off, eventually marrying.

Emma was now a wealthy woman, never having to worry about money again. The last family I remember living here was the Gosselin family. I don't recall when the house was removed.

Bob Turco

Bob remembers when John Dorand lived at the Dollar General location. When Bob was in high school he worked for Waino Mackey after school. Summer months Bob worked for Mackey during the week. Mackey ran an auto body shop where the bear carver is today.

Bob remembers John coming to the body shop weekday mornings. John came to visit and read his paper. Bob said he drove a green, late 1950s Cadillac. Gordon Gates sold furs to John.



John J. Dorand State Forest.

PHOTO BY RON PATCH

John J. Dorand State Forest

Dorand State Forest is comprised of two parcels on Cambridgeport Road, totaling over 500 acres. There are several access points. At the "bow of the river" on Route 103 is a pull off. There's an old road there. This is one access, although not passable all the way. As you start up the old road there is a very steep downhill bank on your right. If your timing is right, you'll see this bank covered with flowering trilliums. Probably early May is the time.

You'll see old beaver ponds with a mix of hard and soft woods. You can hike old logging roads or

fish the brook.

Bob Turco knows this property well. It gives you a feeling of being in a very remote forest. I don't know what year John Dorand donated this acreage to the state.

As a sidebar, I worked for Waino Mackey my senior year. I was paid 50 cents an hour with taxes taken out. I worked 40 hours and took home \$16, but not for long. I went into the antiques business.

This week's old saying is from my mother. She was a little superstitious: "It is bad luck to kill a spider coming toward you."

80 Years of changes in the Connecticut River Valley

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Steve Taylor of Plainfield, N.H., will present the OLLI-Osher Lifelong Learning Institute program "80 Years of Changes in the Connecticut River Valley" on Tuesday, May 9, at 2 p.m. at the Nolin Murray Center next to St. Mary's Church on Pleasant Street in Springfield.

Taylor will relate recollections of the "good ole days,"

as witnessed by his years of experiences as a farmer, newspaperman, and public servant. His many careers spanned time as the editor for The Valley News, New Hampshire Agricultural Commissioner, Plainfield selectman, and farming his land.

Our memories will resonate with his experiences as he relates changes during his

lifetime in many aspects of our lifestyles, including such topics as the use of farm land and the disappearance of dairy farms, transportation and road conditions, how the interstate highways have affected shopping and employment opportunities, and the changing scene of industrial employment with the disappearance of the machine tool industry in

Springfield and Windsor.

He'll voice his lament at how the introduction of television cut into the traditional social events of church suppers and town dances. We'll hear his tales of good changes, of how indoor plumbing and electricity have greatly improved our way of life.

This is the final program of the OLLI spring semester.

The Fall semester will begin on Sept. 19. In August you may view the entire semester's programs and register by going to the website, www.learn.uvm.edu/olli/springfield.

Pre-registration is highly recommended. If you do attend and have not pre-registered, we will welcome you, and provide an easy form for you to take to send

in payment or pay online after the program. There is an individual program fee. No payment can be accepted at the event.

Pre-registration can be done online on the website with a credit card. You may also register over the phone, using your credit card, by calling 802-656-5817 during regular office hours, Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Grace Cottage new clinic design

TOWNSHEND, Vt. – A public forum to unveil plans for a new primary care clinic building at Grace Cottage will be held on Wednesday, May 10, at 5 p.m., at the Townshend Town Hall.

The current clinic operates out of two adjoining houses built in the 1850s. With more than 31,000 patient visits annually – up from 20,000 in 2018 – it is essential that Grace Cottage move forward with this project, in order to meet the access needs of the community, and recruit additional primary care providers that will allow for future growth.

During the past year, Grace Cottage has been working diligently on the steps required to begin what the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation and the Bennington County Regional Commission have named a "vital project" for the region's vitality and economy.

Following a public bidding process, Grace Cottage selected the health-care architecture firm of

Lavallee Brensinger and Engelberth Construction to design and oversee the project. Southern Vermont Engineering conducted geotechnical studies to help determine the best location for the building, which will be adjacent to the existing clinic building, connecting to the hospital building.

Grace Cottage has submitted a Certificate of Need application to the Green Mountain Care Board, Vermont's healthcare regulatory body, and is preparing to apply for an Act 250 permit.

Grace Cottage is embark-

ing on a \$20 million capital campaign for the construction of the new clinic building adjacent to the existing Grace Cottage Family Health building. This project, fulfilling a long-held dream, has been initiated by generous donors who have pledged \$5 million.

Extensive feedback from employees who work in the clinic has been incorporat-

ed into the interior plan. Final exterior and interior designs have been completed for this new 23,000 square foot building, and these will be shared with community members at the May 10 event.



Exterior design of Grace Cottage's new primary care clinic building.

PHOTO PROVIDED



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June 7th The White House Wilmington 4:30 - 6:30pm	June 8th New American Grill Londonderry 2 - 3:15 pm



Register at: <https://brattleborodevelopment.com/competition/>

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opinion

COMMUNITY NEWS

Dear Editor,

Thank you so much for your coverage of the local selectboard meetings. Those of us living in towns where there is no public information program depend on the weekly newspaper to keep us informed of the business of our local governments. Attorneys for the Town of Plymouth informed the Court that since Plymouth has no post office capable of posting meeting notices or other legally required notices, the town's residents don't deserve any public notices. Forget legal challenges, the Court can't be bothered.

When reporters inform the public regarding specific items that are discussed at meetings, it is sometimes the only time the information may be available. Last week, your reporter informed your readers that the Chester Selectboard will drop the number of board members on the cannabis board to

five because the state has already written procedures which guarantee a sufficient number of board members. Similarly, the Plymouth Selectboard could have saved themselves the trouble of creating their own public information process simply by researching the Vermont statutes and reporting that the process has already been carefully articulated by the state legislators.

The press is a great American treasure, offering its citizens the opportunity to stay informed about the business of its governmental bodies. We should be thankful for the wonderful job that the Vermont Journal's professionals do for us.

Sincerely,
Nancy Kessling
Plymouth, Vt.

Strides Community Walk

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Lions Club will host a Strides Community Walk event on May 13, at the Toonerville Trail. Participants can register at the event, which will run from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., or until all participants have completed their walk.

The Springfield Lions Club invites community residents of all ages to participate in this event, which will benefit the Diabetes Awareness Program of District 45, Vermont Lions. Registration for the event is free. Anyone who completes at least one leg – 15 minutes of walking – will receive a gift bag filled with Strides Walk promotional items. Participants will also

receive a Strides Walk lapel pin to proudly identify as someone who is helping raise diabetes awareness in their community.

If you are a serious walker, or even just an evening stroller, you may stop by JC's Market, 445 Giddings Road, North Springfield, Vt., and pick up a pledge sheet to help the Springfield Lions Club and District 45 raise funds which will further support more diabetes awareness programs. You can also get a pledge sheet from the Springfield Lions Club Facebook page. Those who donate may choose any amount they wish to pledge per leg. You may walk at any point from May 6-13. After completing the walk,

bring your completed sheet to the event, or mail the sheet and check of your collected funds to: Springfield Lions Club, P.O. Box 776, Springfield VT, 05156. The check should be made out to Vermont Lions Charities with the notation "Diabetes Awareness" on the memo line.

During the event, participants can visit various booths to receive more information about the prevention and management of diabetes. Complementary water and healthy snacks will be provided.

For more information you may contact Lion Deb Savery at tallships53@gmail.com or call 802-875-2990.

Lions and leos around the world organize Strides community events to heighten awareness about diabetes, and to emphasize the importance of healthy exercise to prevent and manage this disease.

Founded in 1917, Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organization, with 1.4 million members in approximately 47,000 clubs in over 200 countries and geographical areas around the world. Our mission is to empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace, and promote international understanding through Lions clubs.

Foster Care Story Hour

CHESTER, Vt. – Whiting Library will showcase foster, adoption, and family differences to better understand the foster care world during Foster Care Month in May. On Wednesday, May 10, at 3 p.m., at 117 Main Street, the public is invited to join a special family story hour and tea time. This event will focus on learning about foster care, adoption, and family differences. The library will have a collection of relevant books about foster care and adoption avail-

able for check out. Books help children better understand different families, so that children in foster care aren't left out or secluded for their differences or traumas.

Special guest Julie Merrill-Snide, a recruitment and retention specialist for the Vermont Department for Children and Families, will join the group to discuss how attendees can support foster care in Vermont. A read-aloud from engaging books will get kids learning about foster

care. Merrill-Snide will be on hand to provide information on foster care in Vermont, and to talk about support for foster families and how to get involved. This family program is recommended for children ages 4 and up, and includes tea and cookies, plus time for making a paper craft in honor of Mother's Day.

Youth Services Librarian Carrie King encourages all families in the community to come and learn about foster care at the library, saying, "if we can collabo-

rate and share the love of reading, children, and families, together we can make a difference in our world a little at a time." Everyone who loves story hour will enjoy this event, and Merrill-Snide will be on hand to answer questions for those who want to know more about becoming involved in foster care. Contact the Whiting Library for more information or to register for this free event by calling 802-875-2277 or emailing youthlibrarian@whitinglibrary.org.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: Subject to space. May be edited for clarity, grammatical errors, and libelous statements. Must be kept under 400 words. Must include name and town for publication. **EFFECTIVE MARCH, 2023, we will be charging for POLITICAL LETTERS.** Viewpoints do not necessarily reflect the views of The Vermont Journal & The Shopper.

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Springfield Rotary Stuff-a-Truck success

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Rotary Club held a very successful "Stuff-a-Truck" event on April 22, in the Springfield Plaza, to benefit the Springfield Family Center. The event raised more than 1000 pounds of non-perishable food and personal care items. In addition, donors provided \$520 in cash, which the Family Center will use to purchase items through the Vermont Food

Bank. The Springfield Rotary Club thanks all those who helped to make this a successful event.

Rotary International is an international service organization with over one million members in over 200 countries. The Springfield Rotary Club is in its 95th year of service to the community. For more information, visit www.springfieldvtr Rotary.org.



The Springfield Rotary Club hosted a successful Stuff-a-Truck event on April 22.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Springfield Library book club

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield Town Library's Monday Evening Book Club is open to new members. Pick up your book now, and then join us on Monday, May 15, at 6 p.m., at the library and over Zoom, to

discuss "Subtle Acts of Exclusion" by Tiffany Jana and Michael Baran. The book is available at the library in print, and multiple copies are available online as an eBook or eAudio via the Palace Project app.

This month's title ties into the library's quest to become certified as a sustainable library. One focus area of the certification process is to help the community develop better social cohesion.

According to Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, the Executive Director of the Sustainable Libraries Initiative, "social cohesion is an ingredient that libraries can cultivate by actively fostering connection and activating our commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in new ways, as each piece connects to the next. Libraries have, for many years, focused on economic development – helping residents find jobs or start small businesses, and supporting the creation of a trained workforce to attract employers to an area. As much of our focus, if not more, needs to be put on social cohesion. I often describe social cohesion as the 'fabric' of a community. Fabric that is more tightly knit together is stronger, whereas loosely woven fabric often leaves gaps that people can fall through. It is a matter of life and death. Ensuring our neighbors have a high level of empathy and respect for

one another, particularly for others who don't look like them or come from a different culture than they do, should be one of the strongest parts of our legacy."

The meaningful message from "Subtle Acts of Exclusion" is that we do not intend to offend others. However, it is the impact of our words and actions, and not the intent, which matters. The book club will talk about how to minimize that impact and how to stand up for yourself and others. Even if you cannot attend the discussion, this book is important to listen to or read.

According to their publisher, the authors of the book "give simple and clear tools to identify and address such acts, offering scripts and action plans for everybody involved. Knowing how to have these conversations in an open-minded, honest way will help us build trust, and create stronger workplaces and healthier, happier people and communities."

Springfield Town Library serves as the heart of the town, connecting people, ideas, and endeavors of all kinds in order to transform lives.

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Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- Cuts off
- Cookout, briefly
- Gridlock sound
- Jacob's brother
- Actress Lucy In — land
- Goatee's spot
- Here (Fr)
- Saharan
- Submit
- Give temporarily
- Blue blood
- Tour vehicles
- Toe count
- Actress Hagen
- Sciences' partner
- Auction signal
- Urban haze
- Vitamin stat
- Architect I.M. —
- Stinging insects
- Administrative worker
- Lean to one side
- Redacted
- Poker variety
- Victor
- Art Deco master
- Carton sealer
- Texas tea
- Albacore, e.g.
- Cold War initials
- '60s war zone
- Once around the sun
- Pen name
- Took part in a
- Mel of many voices
- Hearing aids?
- Inventor Whitney
- Knee protector
- Nobelist
- Walesa
- Job-safety org.
- Ache
- Ice cream parlor orders
- Russian pancakes
- Pakistani
- language
- New companies
- Uncharged particle
- Full feeling
- Crony
- Bankroll
- Duck down
- Kingdom
- Loyal
- Sicilian spouter
- Beloved
- R-V link
- Prof's helpers
- Spy org.

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obituaries

Curtis Bidgood, 1937-2023

CAVENDISH, Vt. – Curtis Bidgood, 85, passed away on Saturday, April 22, at Cedar Hill Health Care Center in Windsor, Vt. He was born Nov. 5, 1937 in Springfield, Vt., the son of Barnard and Erma (Bradish) Bidgood. He attended Springfield schools, graduating from Springfield High School with the class of 1955. He also completed the Co-op Course working at the Fellows Gear Shaper. He served in the United States Navy from 1956 to 1960.

After serving in the Navy, Curtis was employed at General Electric in Rutland, Vt. as a Tool & Die Maker for 36 years.

Curtis enjoyed hunting and visiting with friends and neighbors. He loved to eat, especially apple pie and Seward's vanilla ice cream. He enjoyed sitting on his front porch in his rocking chair smoking his pipe, nodding and waving to his neighbors driving by. He was always interested in what was going on in the community.



Curtis Bidgood, 1937-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

He is survived by his son Matthew C. Bidgood, his daughter Stephanie Machado, his granddaughter Gwen Roundy, his sister Janet Laughlin, and by several nieces, nephews, and cousins, and many close friends.

He was predeceased by his parents and older brother William John Bidgood.

A graveside service with military honors will be held on Friday, May 5 at 3 p.m., at the Hillcrest Cemetery in Proctorsville, Vt.

Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield is assisting with arrangements.

David A. Putnam, 1939-2023

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – David Arnold Putnam, 84, of Springfield, Vt., passed away Wednesday, Jan. 18, at home with family at his side.

Dave was born Jan. 9, 1939 in Springfield, the son of Clyde Archie and Arline Frances (Wheeler) Putnam. He grew up on Route 5 in Bellows Falls, until moving to Springfield in the late 1940s. He graduated from Springfield High School in 1957. After high school he served in the National Guard from 1957 to 1958 as a civilian occupation machinist at Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford, Conn.

He met his wife of 64 years, Kathleen Marie Domey, in high school. They married Dec. 6, 1958 in Springfield.

Dave started working on The Dutton Farm in Dutton District as an early teenager, when his sister Betty married Marshall. He worked on The Dutton Farm and was considered one of "The Dutton Boys" until the farm closed in 1989. He then worked at Parks and Woolson for 13 years as a machinist. He had other various machinist jobs until his retirement.

Dave drove Bus 13 for over 30 years. Many kids growing up in Springfield at one point in time rode his bus. He was known to make the students mind, and twisted an ear or two in the earlier years. Many individuals over the years have come up to Dave and commented to him about the impact that he had on their lives.

He loved farming and sailing his Hobie Cat sail boat on Lake Sunapee and then eventually Sebago Lake in Maine, where he and Kay bought lakeside property. They enjoyed spending many summers with family and friends on Sebago Lake, and made many good long-time friends there. He also enjoyed many summers of fishing with his grandson Jason up on the lake.

Dave enjoyed camping, fishing, helping out his neighbors, spending time



David Putnam, 1939-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

with his family and friends, and traveling the back roads of Vermont. He loved to tinker on equipment, and could fix almost anything. He touched the lives of many individuals, and will truly be missed by his family and friends.

Dave is survived by his wife Kathleen "Kay", daughter Lori Ann Clark of Naples, Maine, son David and wife Wendy of Westmoreland, N.H., and grandson Jason Putnam and wife Jessica of Warren, Rhode Island. He is also survived by brother-in-law Kenneth Domey of Charlestown N.H., sister-in-law Susan Domey of Costa Rica, nephew Mark Dutton and niece Cindy Dutton of Springfield, and niece Diana Henderson of Wink, Texas. He was predeceased by his parents, sister Elizabeth "Betty" and brother-in-law Marshall Dutton, and sister-in-law Beverly Domey.

The immediate family would like to extend our greatest appreciation to Dave's nephew Mark Dutton for his love, support, and all the care and compassion he gave Dave over the last three months, and to Bayada Hospice nurses Daniel and Matthew, Social Worker Melissa, and Spiritual Counselor Lucy.

A graveside service will be held June 3 at 1 p.m., at the Oakland Cemetery in Springfield, Vt.

Davis Memorial Chapel is assisting with the arrangements.

Peter Dupuis, 2023

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – The graveside service for Peter Dupuis, who passed away on Feb. 10, will take

place on Sunday, May 7, at 12:30 p.m., at the Rockingham Meeting House Cemetery.

Stanley and Shirley Farrar

CHESTER, Vt. – A graveside service for Stanley and Shirley Farrar will be held

May 13 at 10 a.m., at the Pleasant View Cemetery in Chester, Vt.

Claire Hatch, 2022

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Claire (Lerandeau) Hatch, age 79, of Springfield Vt., passed away on Dec. 19, 2022, after a period of declining health. She was preceded by her parents Lucian and Marguerite (Safford) Lerandeau, and by the love of her life, Melvin Hatch, to whom she was married for 38 years before his passing in 2003.

Claire graduated from Springfield High School in 1961, and continued to be very active with class reunions and class activities. She worked for many years as an executive secretary for Bryant Grinder Co., and continued to get together for yearly reunions with those she worked with. After retirement she worked part time at the Miller Art Center and First Congregational Church, where she was a long-time member. She also served as historian for the church and created a timeline of the church in the 20th century. Claire provided food for many events and community lunches there with her sister Marion Lerandeau. She was also a member of the Springfield



Claire Hatch, 2022. PHOTO PROVIDED

Garden Club, and enjoyed baking for their yearly Festival of Trees.

Claire loved travelling with her husband Mel, and after he died she would spend summers with her sister Marion on Rangeley Lake, Maine – a home she and Mel cherished. Claire is survived by her brother Edward Lerandeau, many nieces and nephews, Mel's family, and countless lifelong friends. A graveside service will be held on May 18 at 11 a.m., at Oakland Cemetery in Springfield. It will be a double memorial, as her sister Marion Lerandeau recently passed away on March 12.

Frank E. Fransworth, 1948-2023

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – Frank E. Fransworth, 74, of Saxtons River, Vt., passed away peacefully on April 26, surrounded by family, after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Frank was born July 15, 1948, to Edna (Dumas) and Ralph "Bronc" Fransworth in Claremont, N.H.

Frank's lifelong love of animals and helping others started early, and provided many stories and memories that will live on and be cherished by all that knew him.

On Jan. 1, 1966, he married Charlene M. Bain of Bellows Falls, and they built a life of hard work and adventures with their daughters Tresa Williams of Westminster West, Vt., Bernadette Barr of Warwick, R.I., and Heather Gregory (Jamie) of Grafton, Vt.

Frank left behind his wife, daughters, and grandchildren Kristine Williams, Amanda Wilcox, Kayla Joyner, Mario Fransworth, Fernando Meo, Taylor



Frank Fransworth, 1948-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

Gregory, and Lucas Gregory, as well as many great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his parents and grandson Ryan Williams, as well as two of his favorite people, his aunt Phyllis and "brother" John Morse.

Visitation will take place on Friday, May 5, from 5-6 p.m., with a service starting at 6 p.m. at the Fenton and Hennessey Funeral Home, 55 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls. Burial will take place at a later time in Saxtons River.

Marion E. Lerandeau, 2023

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Marion E. Lerandeau, age 87, of Springfield, Vt., passed away on March 12, after a brief illness. She was preceded by her parents Lucian and Marguerite (Safford) Lerandeau, and her sister Claire Hatch.

Marion graduated from Springfield High School in 1953, and was very active in all events related to the reunions and parade. She graduated from Keene State University with a teaching degree later in life and it was of enormous pride to her and her family. Marion loved to travel and was quite the world traveler, with England being her favorite destination. In 1980, she took her niece on a two-week European tour, and traveled whenever possible. There wasn't anything Marion couldn't bake, sew, or craft. She was incredibly talented, and loved to be hostess and to bake at a multitude of church and fundraising events with her sister Claire. She was a long-time member of the First Congregational Church, and an active member of the Quilt Club – making baby blankets for the hospital among other charitable endeavors – and the Springfield Garden Club.

Marion was a master cake decorator, and often



Marion Lerandeau, 2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

made beautiful cakes for weddings of friends and for family occasions. She and Claire loved going to auctions and thrift stores, and always found a bargain. The sisters also spent summers on Rangeley Lake in Maine – a treasured destination. Marion worked in New York City early in her career, and when back in Springfield, worked at Lawrence and Wheeler Insurance Co., and in the Springfield School District as a para educator. Marion is survived by her brother Edward Lerandeau, many nieces and nephews, and many close friends. A graveside service will be held for Marion on May 18 at 11 a.m., at Oakland Cemetery in Springfield. It will be a double memorial, as her sister, Claire, passed away on Dec. 19, 2022.

Robert E. Knox, 1928-2023

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Robert E. Knox, 95, of Springfield, Vt., passed away peacefully surrounded by family on April 10. He was born Jan. 10, 1928, in Rutland, Vt., son of Edward and Bernice (Peryer) Knox.

Bob was lovingly raised by the Spaulding family – parents Beatrice and Peryer, siblings Donald (Chip), Roger, Ralph (Bug), and Mary (Sis), of Pomfret, Vt. Bob graduated from the Vermont School of Agriculture in Randolph, Vt., in 1944. Following graduation, he served in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS Saipan & USS Ranger during World War II. After his service, he married Marion Burton and settled in Springfield, Vt., where they raised five children. Bob and Marion recently celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary in December 2022.

Bob worked for JM Giddings and then was a devoted, long-time employee at Fellows Gear Shaper Corporation for over 30 years, until his retirement. Bob had side businesses to support his growing family, where he painted houses and sold trailers and camping equipment with brother-in-law Bob Jones, Bobs' Trailer Sales.

Bob was active in the Springfield community, where he was a member of the American Legion, VFW, Elks Club, Hitormiss Club, and Masons. Bob loved to deer hunt at his camp in Pomfret with family and friends. He also en-



Robert Knox, 1928-2023. PHOTO PROVIDED

joyed hunting ginseng in the Vermont woods. Bob was famous for his sense of humor, optimism, and friendly disposition. He had made many, many friends and acquaintances over the years.

In addition to his parents, Bob was predeceased by his son Kenneth, his three brothers Arthur, Carl, and Edward (Butch) Knox, and granddaughter Caren Fry.

Surviving in addition to his wife Marion are his sons Wayne (Carol), Michael (Debbie), John (Mimi), and Tim, and his daughter Karen Ring. He has seven grandchildren and several great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

A remembrance of life will be held on Saturday, May 20, at the Springfield VFW from 1-5 p.m.

For those who wish to make gifts in Bob's memory, they can be made to The American Precision Museum, 196 Main St., Windsor, VT 05089.

Davis Memorial Chapel is assisting with the arrangements.

Peter Waysville

WALPOLE, N.H. – The family of Peter Waysville will be hosting a celebration of life on Saturday, May 6,

from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Watkins Tavern at Hooper Golf Course in Walpole, N.H.

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CHURCH SERVICES:

We run Church Services on an alternating schedule. Subject to space. All services are posted online at www.VermontJournal.com.

calendar

LEGAL NOTICES

MAY 1-31 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Edward Jones branch office in Bellows Falls, located at 16 The Square, will be accepting donations for Parks Place Community Center's "Time for a Change" diaper bank, from May 1-31. The branch is open Monday-Thursday from 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. The items needed for the diaper drive include diapers size 4, 5, and 6, pull ups of all sizes, and baby wipes. Diapers of any size will be accepted. Please note that monetary donations cannot be accepted.

MAY 5 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – There will be a First Friday supper held at the First Baptist Church, 9 Church Street in Bellows Falls, from 5-6:30 p.m. Serving burgers, hot dogs, potato salad, green salad, dessert, and beverages. There is a small suggested donation, and all proceeds will benefit Meals on Wheels volunteers. For takeout, call 802-463-3220.

MAY 6 – WEATHERSFIELD, Vt. – The Community Contra Dance and Social will be held at the Weathersfield Center Meetinghouse,

2579 Weathersfield Center Road, from 7-9 p.m. Contra dancing is a traditional New England folk dance style in which couples dance in two facing lines, following the instructions of a caller. Participants will be taught and guided through the dance. No special clothing or footwear required. There will be potluck snacks during the break; feel free to bring simple finger food to share, as well as any beverages you'd like. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

MAY 7 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Bellows Falls Woman's Club (BFWC) will be holding their Afternoon Tea fundraiser, to benefit the BFWC Amy Searle's Scholarship, on May 7 from 2-4 p.m., at the Masonic Temple, 61 Westminster Street. There will be a raffle, and prizes will be awarded for hats and fascinators. Tickets can be purchased from BFWC club members, or by calling 802-463-4720.

MAY 8 – LUDLOW, Vt. – Everyone is welcome to join bingo at the Black River Valley Senior Center, 10 High Street in Ludlow, from 1-3 p.m. There will be refreshments, as well as a door prize. Seating is limited, so reservations are suggested. To make a reservation, please call 802-228-7421.

MAY 12 – BRATTLEBORO, Vt. – With a tip of our hat to Dave Brubeck's famous groundbreaking hit, "Take Five," Sarasa brings the lush sound of the cello to the fore in music arranged and written for four cellos. Beginning at 7 p.m. at the Brattleboro Music Center, located at 72 Blanche Moyle Way in Brattleboro, a wide range of eras and styles of music will be performed, from Josquin des Prez, to J.S. Bach, to Beethoven, to Wagner, to Fauré and Brubeck, arranged by Eugene Friesen.

MAY 13 – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – The Community Closet at Immanuel Episcopal Church is holding a bag sale from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. The Closet is full of winter clothing, such as new children's jackets, long sleeve jerseys and blouses, fleece vests and jackets, and sweaters. Stock up now for next winter.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Beginning at 7 p.m., Springfield Community Players present "9 to 5," a musical comedy based on the movie that featured Jane Fonda, Dolly Parton, and Lilly Tomlin, at the Springfield Community Players Studio, 165 South St. in Springfield. In this comedy adaptation, three women take over the office from an overbearing boss and make it better for all employees. Tickets can be reserved by calling 802-885-4098.

SUNDAYS – SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Catamount Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol meets Sundays, from 3:30-5:30 p.m., at Hartness Airport in Springfield. The Civil Air Patrol is the auxiliary unit of the U.S. Air Force tasked with the mission of supporting America's communities with emergency response, diverse aviation and ground services, youth development, and promotion of air, space, and cyber power. Cadets as young as 12 and senior members of any age make up this diverse group of volunteers.

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Bellows Falls Loyal Order of Moose will be hosting a community breakfast on the first and third Sunday of every month downstairs at the Bellows Falls Moose Lodge, 59 Westminster St. in Bellows Falls, from 8-10 a.m. All you can eat for a minimal cost.

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. – Sunday Soul: Vermont, a monthly dance party, occurs every first Sunday at Stone Church Vt, located at 210 Main St.,

Brattleboro. Residents DJ Ozzie Mandias and DJ/Producer Leo Alarcon will be spinning the hottest house music, aka disco's revenge from 5-11 p.m.

MONDAYS – PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – On Mondays at 6:15 p.m., join Mikayla for a yoga class. Contact Lori Wright at 603-401-8123 or visit www.dgbodyworks.com for more information. Private classes are available.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Mondays at 6:30 p.m. there will be Pub Trivia Night at Vermont Beer Makers on River Street in Springfield. Up to five people per team. Free entry.

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – The Rockingham Library hosts a chess club each Monday from 3-5:30 p.m. led by Mike Sola. Drop-ins and all levels of player are welcome. This program is free and open to the public.

TUESDAYS – BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Come check out TOPS – Take Off Pounds Sensibly. We are a nonjudgmental, affordable, and supportive weight loss group. The first visit is free. We are taking Covid-19 precautions so a mask is required while attending the meeting. All are welcome; youth must be at least 9 to attend and have parental permission. Meetings are every Tuesday at 25 Cherry Hill in Bellows Falls. Weigh-ins start at 5:45 p.m.

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.

CHESTER, Vt. – Knitting with Friends at Six Loose Ladies on the Chester Common, Wednesdays, from 10 a.m. to noon.

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.

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Meals on Wheels serves a senior community lunch every Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the meal site, which is located on the corner of Union and Southridge streets in Springfield. All-you-can-eat buffet includes milk, coffee or tea, and dessert. Suggested donation. For more information, call 802-885-5879.

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 – CHESTER, Vt. – Bone Builders Class in Chester every Friday, 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.

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. Participants may need to show proof of Springfield residency. For more information, call 802-885-2568, email info@edgarmay.org, or visit www.edgarmay.org.

SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS LUDLOW, Vt. – Yoga classes at the Spring House at Jackson Gore. Yoga Stretch with Kathy Saturdays at 10 a.m. and Slow Flow Yoga with Lisa Sundays at 10:15 a.m. Drop in rates apply. Open to all. For details, call the Spring House at 802-228-1419 or visit www.okemo.com.

TOWN OF CHESTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

WATER/WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR

The Town of Chester has a full-time employment opportunity available in its Water/Wastewater Department. This job is specific to the position of Operator of the Wastewater Plant and Municipal Water System.

Minimum requirements are:

- * High School Diploma or equivalent
- * Minimum of a VT GD 2 Domestic WW Operator Certification preferred but will train the right applicant
- * Minimum of a Grade 3 Water Certification or the ability to obtain the Grade 3 Certification within 2 years
- * Two years applicable experience in all phases of water/wastewater system operation and maintenance preferred
- * Significant knowledge of Vermont regulatory and reporting requirements to ensure compliance with all conditions of water and wastewater permits preferred.
- * Ability to deal with the public in a positive manner
- * General contracting and basic maintenance skills a plus
- * Willingness to work alongside other departments

Starting salary will be determined based on experience with a competitive benefits package. The position will remain open until filled. Please submit Employment Application and Resume to the Chester Town Manager's Office, 556 Elm Street, P.O. Box 370, Chester, VT, 05143.

TOWN OF CHESTER NOTICE OF HEARING FOR CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT

Michael Kennedy has applied for a Conditional Use Permit for the Chester Hardware property located at 21 Main Street in the Town of Chester. The proposed use is to prepare and sell food as an outdoor food vendor.

The Town of Chester Development Review Board will conduct a site visit at 5:30 PM on Monday, May 22, 2023, at 21 Main Street and will hold a hearing on this application at 6:00 PM on Monday, May 22, 2023, at the Chester Town Hall at 556 Elm Street in Chester. A copy of the application and additional information may be obtained from the Zoning Administrator.

Participation in this hearing in person, via Zoom videoconference, or in writing is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal.

A link to participate in this hearing via Zoom videoconference may be found on the Town of Chester website home page at www.chestervt.gov.

Dated at Chester, Vermont this 27th day of April 2023.

Preston Bristow
Zoning Administrator
(802) 875-2173
zoning@chestervt.gov

TOWN OF CHESTER POLICE LIEUTENANT

The Town of Chester is seeking an experienced law enforcement individual to serve as Police Lieutenant. This person will have a strong desire to provide the highest quality police services to the department and to the community. The Chester Police Department serves a population of approximately 3,144 residents and covers an area of approximately 56 square miles.

The Lieutenant is responsible for immediate supervision and control of all Department personnel and is personally responsible for their efficiency and effectiveness. The Lieutenant is second in command of the Department and is subject to the direction and control of the Chief. The applicant must possess strong leadership and administrative abilities with ten (10) years minimum full time law enforcement experience. Consideration will be given to total years of service in as much as they translate into evident knowledge and experience. Preference will be given to having previously held the rank of Sergeant.

Chester offers a competitive starting wage with shift differential, as well as an excellent benefit's package including participation in VMERS Group C retirement, MVP health insurance, paid sick time, vacation time, and personal time. Uniforms and police equipment are provided. Visit www.chestervt.gov/employment-opportunities for full requirements and a more detailed job description. Submit a resume to:
Town of Chester
ATTN: Chief Thomas Williams
P.O. Box 370
Chester, VT 05143
Interested applicants can also contact the Chester Police Department at (802) 875-2035 for more information. The Town of Chester is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

TOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT CAVENDISH, VERMONT

The Town of Cavendish has an immediate opening for a full-time Highway Department crew member.

This position has a competitive wage and excellent benefits package. Applicants are required to have current CDL, good driving and work records and must be in good physical health. Solid experience in construction and heavy equipment operation, including dump truck operation, is essential. This is a permanent position with retirement plan. A comprehensive job description is available to serious applicants.

Applications, resumes and inquiries should be directed to:
Cavendish Select Board
Town of Cavendish Municipal Building
37 High Street, P.O. Box 126
Cavendish, Vermont 05142
(802) 226-7291
Cavendish is an Equal Opportunity Employer

TOWN OF JAMAICA – TOWN TREASURER

The Town of Jamaica is looking for an organized and motivated candidate to serve as its Town Treasurer and Delinquent Tax Collector.

The treasurer is responsible for keeping the town's funds, including receipt, investment, and disbursement; keeping a record of taxes voted, billed, and collected; collecting other funds receivable by the town, and paying orders drawn on town accounts. The treasurer additionally serves as the delinquent tax collector and the Assistant Town Clerk as needed.

A bachelor's degree in accounting, public administration, or similarly applicable discipline is preferred (although not required), or a course of study in equivalent subjects. At least three years' experience in the area of accounting including experience managing payroll, employee benefits, and accounts payable and receivable is desirable.

A detailed job description is provided on the town website. The position is a 30 hour (4 days in office) per week position and includes benefits. Salary is commensurate with education, experience, and the ability to carry out assigned work.

To apply please submit a cover letter and resume including contact information for three professional references via email to townclerk@jamaicavermont.org or mailed to Town Clerk, PO Box 173, Jamaica, Vermont 05343. Questions can be directed to the town clerk at (802) 874-4681.

TOWN OF LONDONDERRY VERMONT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Londonderry Development Review Board will meet at 100 Old School St at 5:30 PM on Wednesday May 17, 2023, to hold a public hearing for an application from Max Turner to have an outdoor dining area at the New American Grill, 5960 Rt 100.

Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. Sections 4464(a)(1)(c) and 4471(a), participation in the local proceedings is a prerequisite to take any subsequent appeal.

Application materials and information on how to attend remotely are available by emailing the town's Zoning Administrator at zoningadmin@londonderryvt.org.

Town of Londonderry, VT JOB OPENINGS

Road Crew Member/Equipment Operator

Work includes plowing, grading, ditching, road repair, road-side mowing, culvert work, chainsaw operation, equipment maintenance, and other duties. A clean driving record, a CDL license, and the ability to pass drug/alcohol tests are required. Highway/road maintenance experience preferred. This is a full-time position with excellent benefits.

Transfer Station Attendant

Part-time (5 hours per week) Transfer Station Attendant to work on weekends. Backhoe experience preferred.

Applicants must complete and submit a required Employment Application, which can be found in the Town Forms section of the Town web site: www.londonderryvt.org. Submit via email to townadmin@londonderryvt.org or mail to: Town of Londonderry, 100 Old School Street, South Londonderry, VT 05155. Other supporting information from applicants is welcome.

Positions opened until filled. The Town of Londonderry is an equal opportunity employer.

LEGAL NOTICES

classifieds

BUYING/SELLING

BUYING-SELLING Coins, Paper Money, Vintage Sports-Postcards, Comics. See our displays at ANTIQUE CENTERS in Chester and Quechee. Open 7 Days. 802-379-2353. House calls available.

FOR SALE

LUDLOW/ANDOVER, Vt. - Firewood for sale! Cut to order. Please call for current pricing. 802-875-2076.

CHESTER, Vt. - Stowe Canoe Co 13 1/2 Mansfield fiberglass and wood canoe. Condition is excellent. A real beauty! \$500.

Come see. Leave message 802-384-0347.

GUNS WANTED

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

HELP WANTED

CHESTER, Vt. - Search reopened; busy dental office seeks part-time receptionist to join our team. Must have outstanding telephone and interpersonal skills and basic computer literacy. This is a flexible position 20-30 hours per week. Previous medical/dental of-

experience preferred. Please send letter of interest and resume to: info@drchristopherfauver.com attn: hiring manager.

ASCUTNEY, Vt. - Full time mechanic's helper/laborer. Call 603-381-0929.

CAVENDISH, Vt. - Wanted: Part-time driver. Must be flexible with hours. Car provided. \$15/hour. Duties include transporting passenger to work and other errands. Female preferred. Must be personable. Call 802-226-8131 or email jmaclean488@comcast.net.

JP TRUCKING & HODGKINS & SONS IS HIRING FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS: Class A CDL driver for dump truck and lowboy. SKILLED laborers. Must be dependable and able to

follow through with the required paperwork. MUST have good work ethic. Hourly rate depends on experience. Great benefits, uniforms, vacation pay, sick pay, medical insurance, retirement, boot stipend. Equipment use discount. Please stop in the office at 485 Old Drewsville Road, Walpole, N.H.

FENCE INSTALLER - Min. age 21 w/driver's license. Benefits after qualifying period. Season generally runs into December. Apply Springfield Fence, 50 Route 106, N. Springfield. 802-886-2221.

ALL-AROUND Fabricator/Welder/Installer/Mechanic at full-line fence company and custom ornamental metal shop - Min. age 21 w/driver's license. Full-time year-round w/benefits.

Apply Springfield Fence/Hawks Mtn Ironworks, 50 Route 106, N. Springfield. 802-886-2221.

Grace's full time experienced drywaller, light carpentry, \$28 and up. 802-674-5892.

Grace's full time mechanic's helper, laborer, yard work, and

parts cleaner. 603-381-0929.

YARD SALE

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. - Yard sale May 6, from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. at 62 Wetherby Road in Charlestown.

TOWN OF LUDLOW, VERMONT

2 POSITIONS AVAILABLE

EQUIPMENT OPERATOR/TRUCK DRIVER

The Town of Ludlow Highway Department invites applications for the position of **Equipment Operator/Truck Driver**. This is a full-time, year round position. Principal duties will include plowing snow, sanding and salting roads, road construction and maintenance and other related duties. Must possess a valid VT Commercial Driver's License and have experience operating a dump truck with plow, sander, loader and excavator, backhoe and/or grader. General knowledge of vehicle maintenance, fundamental construction and maintenance procedures, public works, and equipment operation are a plus.

Municipal Benefit Package includes health & dental insurance, retirement plan and paid vacations **PLUS** a \$2,000.00 Sign-On Bonus. Employment applications are available at the Ludlow Municipal Office or on-line at www.ludlow.vt.us. Please submit completed applications to the Ludlow Municipal Office PO Box 359, Ludlow, VT 05149, (802) 228-2841 or email to tmanager@tds.net. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The Town of Ludlow is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

WATER FLUSHING NOTICE VILLAGE OF LUDLOW

On Monday, May 8, 2023 through Friday, May 12, 2023, the Village of Ludlow Water Department will be flushing the water system and testing the fire hydrant system. The flushing will take place each day from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

Please note: The entire water system will be affected. Residents may experience discolored water during this time. When the flushing is complete, please be sure to let your cold water run until your water runs clear. We appreciate your patience and understanding while we perform our annual distribution system maintenance.

If you have any questions, please call the Water Department at 228-8431 or the Municipal Office at 228-2842. Thank you.

Town and Village of Ludlow, VT Announcement 2023 Downtown and Village Center Tax Credit Program

In FY 2024, \$4.35 Million in state income tax credits are available. Credits are awarded to projects that improve building safety, attract new business, and create jobs. Projects must be within a state-designated downtown, village center, or neighborhood development area. Funding supports general rehabilitation and code compliance work. The program also funds flood mitigation upgrades and exterior facade improvements.

Applications for the next round of tax credits are due Monday, July 3, 2023.

The Program Guidelines and Application is posted on the Town Website www.ludlow.vt.us

You must submit applications via email to: accd.Downtown-VillageCenterTaxCreditProgram@vermont.gov

For any questions contact:
Caitlin Corkins | Tax Credits and Grants Coordinator
Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development
1 National Life Dr, Davis Bldg, 6th Floor | Montpelier, VT 05620-0501
Caitlin.Corkins@vermont.gov
802-828-3047

Foxy Fund's first anniversary

REGION - During the month of May, Senior Solutions will be celebrating the first anniversary of their expanded "Foxy Fund" by promoting a major fund drive to enhance the program. The Foxy Fund began many years ago as a way to help seniors pay their pets' veterinary bills. The story of how that started with a client named Karl can be found on the Senior Solutions website. Then, in the spring of 2022, Senior Solutions received a \$20,000 grant from PetSmart Charities, which enabled them to greatly expand the fund to include monthly deliveries of pet food to all clients who receive Meals on Wheels. As of May 1, this service is now available throughout their entire service area, covering Windham and Windsor Counties.

May - which is both Older Americans Month and National Pet Month - is the perfect time to celebrate our ability to help our senior residents care for their furry

companions. A series of vignettes highlighting clients who have been helped by this fund will appear in social media ads throughout the month of May, asking readers to donate to increase the the funding level in this important program.

Studies have shown that Vermont has one of the highest pet ownership rates in the nation. Studies also show that older Americans own pets at greater rates than the general public. Often, a pet may be the only constant companion to a senior who lives alone. Seniors who have pets have been shown to maintain better health, and see improvements in their cardiovascular systems as a result of caring for and being loved by a pet. Senior Solutions asks everyone to join in celebrating this important relationship by donating to the Foxy Fund this May. Client vignettes and donation information can be found at www.seniorsolutionsvt.org/giving/the-foxy-fund.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING SPRINGFIELD HOSPITAL

A public meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, 5:30 - 6:30 pm, at Springfield Hospital to share information on plans to replace the pedestrian bridge that connects the hospital parking lot with the upper level of the Ridgewood Professional Building. All are invited to attend the meeting which will take place in the Level D conference room at Springfield Hospital, 25 Ridgewood Road, Springfield, VT 05156. For more information, please contact Anna Smith at annasmith@springfieldhospital.org, or call 802-885-7621.

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD

The Town of Springfield Development Review Board will hold their public hearings at 6:30 pm, Tuesday, May 9, 2023, to review the following development proposals: (1) 2-lot subdivision located at 105 Fairground Road. (2) Short-term rental at 481 Parker Hill Road, (3) Home business at 181 Parker Hill Road, and (4) Family Childcare facility at 68 White Street. Persons wishing to participate in the public hearing may do so in person, via zoom video conferencing, or by submitting written comments. Participation in this hearing in person, via Zoom video conference, or in writing is a prerequisite to the right to take any subsequent appeal. Please contact the Town Planner (802-376-6102 /toszoning@vermontel.net) for copies of the meeting agenda and zoning applications.

Town of Plymouth, Vermont Highway Department Position Available

The Town of Plymouth has an opening for a Town employee in its Highway Department. This is a full-time, year-round position. Duties will include snow plowing, sanding and salting roads, road construction, maintenance and other related duties. Applicant must hold a valid VT CDL and have experience operating a dump truck with a plow and sander.

Competitive salary as well as a great Municipal Benefit Package to include health & dental insurance, retirement plan, paid holidays, and paid vacation. Overtime is required in the winter for storm events and compensation is 1.5 times the hourly rate.

Please submit a completed application to the Plymouth Town Clerk's Office at 68 Town Office Road, Plymouth, Vermont 05056 or email clerk@plymouthvt.org. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The Town of Plymouth is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Weekly SUDOKU									
Answer									
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3	5	7	8	9	6	1	4	2	
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2	9	8	5	7	4	3	1	6	
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King Crossword											
Answers											
Solution time: 25 mins.											
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E	S	A	U	L	I	U	L	A	L	A	
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B	U	S	E	S	T	E	N	U	T	A	
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T	A	P	E	O	I	L	T	U	N	A	
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Ice Out a show of paintings by Dan O'Donnell
Reception on May 5 from 5-6:30

May 20 Intro to Origami with Gloria Dufield
June 3 Spring Landscape in Watercolor with Rob O'Brien
Call to artists: Open Wall Show On the Wild Side

galleryvault.org
(07/26/23 - TFN - 13)

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(11/22/23 - 52)

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(08/11/23 - TFN - 52)

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Okemo Valley TV

Watch on TV: Community Channel: Comcast 1076 & VTel 166
Education / Gov't Channel: Comcast 1086 / VTel 167
Watch Online: OKEMOVALLEY.TV (live streams & video-on-demand) & YOUTUBE

Okemo Valley TV now has its own app on all of the main streaming platforms! Apple TV, Roku, Amazon Fire TV, Google Play, and mobile (iOS & Android)
(07/05/23 - TFN - 13)

outdoor

Andover Green Up picnic returns

ANDOVER, Vt. – Signs of spring are all around – the return of migrating birds, and the first buds on trees. Unfortunately, snowmelt reveals trash along the roadsides. As in the past, Andover volunteers are encouraged to rid the roadsides of trash, and also to give our cemeteries

and town grounds a spring clean up.

Come pick up trash bags on Green Up Day at the town hall Saturday, May 6, starting at 9 a.m., and grab a coffee or water. To get a head start, volunteers may obtain bags from the town office. Green Up trash can be placed in the dumpster

in front of the town garage.

At noon, we will gather at the Town Hall to celebrate our hard work, and to enjoy a potluck picnic. Hot dogs and soft drinks will be provided. Volunteers are asked to bring a side dish, if possible.

Herricks Cove Wildlife Festival on May 7

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – If you're a wildlife enthusiast itching for spring, then be sure to check out the Herricks Cove Wildlife Festival on Sunday, May 7, on the Connecticut River in Rockingham, Vt. – presented by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and Ascutney Mountain Audubon Society.

This is a family-friendly festival, with an emphasis on the wildlife and natural resources of Vermont. The

festival will feature live animals, nature-focused walks, kids' activities, presentations, demonstrations by environmental and nature organizations, and more – all focused on getting outdoors and enjoying nature.

"The Herricks Cove Wildlife Festival gives participants a chance to learn about our native wildlife and the importance of conserving their habitats so future generations can

appreciate them as well," said MaryBeth Adler, a state wildlife biologist with Vermont Fish and Wildlife.

Activities are scheduled from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. There are small suggested donations for individuals and families. Pets are not allowed.

Herricks Cove is located just off Route 5, less than three miles north of Bellows Falls.

Black River Rod and Gun to hold fishing derby

LUDLOW, Vt. – The Black River Valley Rod and Gun Club will hold its annual

kid's fishing derby at Cook's Pond, located on Rod and Gun Club Road in Ludlow,

on Saturday, May 13. Sign up begins at 8:30 a.m., and fishing will happen from 9-11 a.m. All children up to 15 years old are eligible to participate. Prizes will be awarded and refreshments served.

Rockingham Green Up Day

ROCKINGHAM, Vt. – May 6 is just around the corner – it's time to make your Green Up plans. Vermonters have a long history of cleaning up the roads and paths for over fifty years now. It is the best kind of town, friend, and family tradition. This year, Green Up Day is officially Saturday, May 6, but Rockingham regulars know the highway department grabs the green bags and trash early Monday, May 8. Go ahead – start cleaning up Friday, May 5, or jump in on Sunday, May 7. The familiar green bags used to clean up neighborhoods, roads, parks, and play-

grounds, are available at the Rockingham Town Clerk's Office, J&H Hardware, Lisa's Market, and the Saxtons River Village Market.

How does Green Up Day work? Head out to Rockingham roadsides and fill your Green Up bag with paper, cans, and roadside trash; it's fine to mix trash and recyclables this one time. Bright clothes and facing oncoming traffic helps you be visible to cars. Insect repellent, gloves, and boots protect against dirt and ticks. Children should tell adults if they find medical waste. Use gloves and pliers or tongs to pick up needles, and secure them in a thick plastic container, ideally marked

"Medical Waste." Once the area is clean, the green bags of trash can be left by the side of the road for town-wide pick-up by the town highway department. Bags can also be dropped off at the Bellows Falls Highway Garage on Blake Street, or the Rockingham Garage on Route 103.

Need more information? Check out the website at www.greenupvermont.org. Report areas that need special attention to Margo Ghia, Rockingham Green Up Coordinator, at mtghia@gmail.com. You can also leave messages for Rockingham Green Up at 802-869-1214. Let's make Rockingham look great!

Michael Tournay to speak to SoVerA

CHESTER, Vt. – Please join the Southern Vermont Astronomy Group (SoVerA) on Tuesday, May 9, at 7 p.m. for a hybrid monthly meeting. SoVerA is excited to again host Michel Tournay, who will be discussing his adventures and experiences with solar eclipses. The in-person meeting will be at the Chester, Vt. town hall, and the virtual meeting will be available at www.zoom.us/j/94691230307.

Michel Tournay is the

self-proclaimed "crazy Canadian who worked most of his life in the great Canadian north, and fell in love with the auroras and the polar bears." In 1994, he saw his first solar eclipse, and was hooked. His famous post-eclipse phrase: "where and when is the next one?" Chile; Guadeloupe; Africa; the North Pole; China; Easter island, where he met his future wife Susan; Fiji, where he proposed; Svalbard, where they had their honeymoon; and the U.S.A. are

among the places where he has been able to view his newly found obsession. Being retired for four and a half years now, Michel and his wife live in Sutton, in the eastern townships of Québec. Covid made them miss the 2020 eclipse in Chile, but now they are set to see the annular eclipse next October, and the total solar eclipse in 2024.

May's presentation is all about who, what, where, when, and why to see the eclipse in 2024. SoVerA hopes to see you there.

Chester Fishing Derby

CHESTER, Vt. – The Chester Rod and Gun Club will sponsor the annual Children's Fishing



The 2022 fishing derby.

PHOTO BY RON PATCH

Derby on Saturday, May 13, from 9-11 a.m. at the Chester reservoir. Children up to the age of 12 may participate in the event, and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. The Children's Fishing Derby is hosted each year with the cooperation and assistance of the Vermont Department of Fish

and Wildlife. The reservoir will be stocked with trout shortly before the event. Prizes will be awarded to the lucky anglers who catch the first fish, the longest fish, and the first to catch their five fish limit. For additional information, please contact George Wilson at 802-236-1746.

Saxtons River derby

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – The Saxtons River annual Fishing Derby will be held May 6 at the ponds on Pleasant Valley Road. Correction: the derby will not have staggered time slots for different ages. Registration will begin at 8 a.m., with fishing beginning at 8:30 a.m., for all ages.

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arts & entertainment

“Ice Out” at the VAULT

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Gallery at the VAULT is proud to present “Ice Out,” a show of new works by Dan O’Donnell, on display April 26 – June 7. There will be a reception on Friday, May 5 from 5-6:30 p.m.

“Ice Out” takes us from winter into spring with Dan’s incredible use of simple shapes and objects, which create an unexpected richness of design, color,

and form that is appealing and provocative.

Dan was educated in fine art, graphic design, and printmaking at the Art Institute of Boston, Mass., and the Massachusetts College of Art. Owner of O’Donnell Designs in Springfield, he has been the recipient of numerous awards from the Vermont Advertising Club for commercial design. He has been with VAULT from

its inception, as an artist and volunteer.

Gallery at the VAULT is located at 68 Main Street, Springfield. The gallery is open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Fridays from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

For more information, call 802-885-7111, email galleryvault@vermontel.net, or visit www.galleryvault.org.

“Rebirth” at DaVallia Gallery

CHESTER, Vt. – DaVallia invites you to a special fine art exhibition. “Rebirth” is the first exhibition in their new “Curated Collection” series. The show will run May 5 – June 16. The gallery is reopening for the season at 4 p.m. on Friday, May 5, with an opening reception from 4-7 p.m. to launch the show.

DaVallia Gallery is taking a new approach to their events this year. They are pleased to introduce “Curated Collections,” which will be a series of exhibitions focused on a selected theme. Every six weeks, the gallery will feature a new body of artwork that will be curated in conjunction with their furniture and décor collection. The new collection will be available starting 4 p.m. opening day. The

opening reception will be a wonderful evening and an opportunity to get the first chance at great new pieces and meet the artists. The series is designed to provide inspiration and a new experience upon each visit. It will also allow the gallery to showcase more work and support a larger network of regional artists.

The first exhibition, “Rebirth,” is about “spring, the season of rebirth, of hope and renewal. When we are encouraged by the increase of light and warmth as we awaken again and feel more like our true selves. The emerging greens of every shade and color, blossoms everywhere make us feel joyful. It is the season of new beginnings and full awakening. Spring is green and alive, it is a tender re-

birth after the long winter slumber, and it is welcomed with open arms.”

Established in 2009, DaVallia has been a five star destination for the arts. Located on Route 103 in the historic Stone Village of Chester, their gallery and sculpture gardens provide an inspiring atmosphere to experience a diverse array of art. To preview the show, purchase works, or to learn more about their art collection, visit them online at www.artfulvt.com. Detailed information about the artist reception is also available online or via DaVallia’s e-newsletter. To schedule an appointment for a private viewing, call Michael Alon at 802-875-8900.

Intro to Origami at Gallery at the VAULT

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Do you remember making your first paper airplane or paper crane, the joy of learning and mastering how to fold paper-based creations?

Gloria Dufield is bringing you an opportunity to have that fun and mastery with “Intro to Origami” at Gallery at the VAULT on Saturday, May 20, from 1-3 p.m.

Starting with the basic valley and mountain folds, you will practice and then use double-sided origami paper to create at least three origami creations – a butterfly, a crane, and a frog that actually jumps. Double-sided origami paper and a plastic bone folder tool for making crisp

folds will be provided. They make great little gifts, and your new skill can be shared.

Please register by May 17. There is a registration fee, and a fee for materials.

Gallery at the VAULT is located at 68 Main Street, Springfield. The gallery is open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Fridays from 11 a.m. – 7



The VAULT will hold an origami class. PHOTO PROVIDED

p.m. For more information, call 802-885-7111, email galleryvault@vermontel.net, or visit www.galleryvault.org.

High Flying Circus Tour comes to Claremont

CLAREMONT, N.H. – The New England Center for Circus Arts (NECCA) presents “INTERTWINE,” in which nine stories of growth and discovery are told through acrobatics and circus magic in a bold and original new work. Area audiences have the unique opportunity to see these talented performers at a matinee showing on Sunday, May 7, at the Claremont Opera House.

NECCA, based in Brattleboro, Vt., is the only full-time, educational circus program in the United States dedicated to launching emerging professionals, with an eye to invigorating the future of circus in America. For this production, NECCA has teamed with Mark Lonergan, Canadian-born Founding Artistic Director of Parallel Exit and Creative Director for Circus Smirkus. Lonergan now directs the “INTER-

TWINE” show that will tour through New York, Vermont, and New Hampshire.

The show is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Vermont Arts Council, and New England Foundation for the Arts,

as well as sponsor businesses including Brattleboro Savings & Loan, Holiday Inn Express, BackRoads Granola, Oak Meadow, Berkeley & Veller, and Bill Sapsis.

Performances are for all ages, and guests may pur-

“Apple Blossom Cotillion” on SAPA

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Springfield Area Public Access Television will broadcast the premiere of the historical documentary “Apple Blossom Cotillion: A Springfield Tradition” on Saturday, May 6 at 7 p.m.

This full-length film tells the story of how the Apple Blossom Cotillion was created and has endured as a constant in the life of Springfield, Vt. for more than sixty years, despite the many societal and cultural changes in both the town and the nation. With its elements of elegant pageant and popular entertainment, the cotillion has consistently presented a unique opportunity to showcase young people and connect the community.

Directed and edited by independent videographer Cindy Putorti, the

film includes clips from the Cotillion’s 50th and 60th anniversary productions, as well as interviews with judges, directors, and past queens. It also includes local historical material provided by the Springfield Art and Historical Society.

The Apple Blossom Cotillion began in 1957 as a debutante ball by members of the Springfield Hospital Auxiliary, who were predominantly the wives of local business leaders. The Auxiliary was an independent nonprofit organization that produced the event for more than forty years, each year making a gift to the hospital from its proceeds. The event has been presented by Springfield Hospital since 2000.

Over the years, the performances of the young people have become the focal point of the event, as the music became more contemporary, and elementary school chil-

dren became a popular addition to the show. However, the formal presentations of high school senior girls and their escorts, including their traditional curtsy and bow, continued to result in the crowning of another Apple Blossom Queen. Among its many regional and national recognitions, the event was featured in Yankee Magazine.

Larry Kraft, who was the emcee of the Apple Blossom Cotillion for twenty years, will introduce the film on SAPA TV. After its showing, he will also host a live question-and-answer session with the director of the documentary.

Following this premiere broadcast, the video and accompanying live sessions will be available on SAPA TV’s website along with its current library of the past twenty Apple Blossom Cotillions.

St. Luke’s Mission Theatre events —

CHARLESTOWN, N.H. – On Mother’s Day, May 14, at 2 p.m., Charlestown’s very talented Becker Sisters will perform – Kirsten on piano and Alyssa on guitar and vocals. Entitled “Come to My Garden,” they will feature classical works by Dvorak, Gershwin, and Faure, and cinematic selections including “Summertime,” “Baby Mine,” “Climb Every Mountain,” and “You’ll Never Walk Alone.” Listening to these young musicians will be a Mother’s Day treat to thrill the whole family.

On Friday, May 19, at 7 p.m., the Matsiko World Orphan Choir will tour Charlestown and perform songs from their repertoire of world music. Since 2008, the Matsiko Choir has brought together orphaned and vulnerable children to share their story of turning the pain of loss, hunger, and hopelessness into personal empowerment through



The Matsiko World Orphan Choir will tour Charlestown. PHOTO PROVIDED

music, dance, and storytelling. The Liberian students coming to Charlestown are honored to represent other Matsiko children from around the world. Come and hear how the choir uses the unifying power of music to uplift every child and bring joy to all who listen. A

free will donation to support the education of the choir members will be taken.

Children under 12 enter for free; for all others, tickets can be purchased at the door, or online at www.eventbrite.com. St. Luke’s doors will open a half hour before curtain time.

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sports

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Chester Volleyball League 2023 season

CHESTER, Vt. – The Chester Vermont Volleyball League (CVVL) is excited to announce the start of its upcoming 2023 outdoor volleyball season. The league, which brings together players of all skill levels ages 14 and up, aims to promote fitness and community.

The new sand courts at Thomas Field, located at the corner of Balch Road and route 11 in Chester, are the passion project of the local volleyball community. This year, the courts come complete with outdoor lighting and a new pavilion, with bath-

rooms and a rustic kitchen, making it the perfect spot for post-game grill-outs.

“Our league is all about creating a fun and inclusive environment for people to play volleyball,” says Jessica Citera, local realtor and the organizer of the league. “We strive to provide a supportive and positive atmosphere where everyone can enjoy the game, make friends, and keep the spirit of volleyball in southern Vermont alive.”

The summer league is open to coed teams with up to eight players, and

will play on Tuesday nights throughout the summer, starting on May 23 and ending with a playoff tournament on Aug. 26. Team fees include membership access to all league events.

For those who aren't able to commit to a full season of play, interested volleyballers can look forward to pick-up nights on Fridays and Sundays, monthly tournaments, and an end-of-season 4s league that starts in August.

The Chester Vermont Volleyball League has already generated a buzz in the community. Many enthusiastic new and returning players are signing up to participate in the upcoming season, and to help the club introduce the sport to new generations of players.

For more information on the Chester Vermont Volleyball League, including how to sign up, please visit us on Facebook @chestervolleyball or email chestervolleyball@gmail.com.

Cosmos beat Otters 50-33

BRANDON, Vt. – On Monday, April 24, the Cosmos headed up north to take yet another win with a 50-33 victory over the Otter Valley Otters. Springfield Unified Basketball is on a three-game winning streak. In Otter Valley, Springfield was able to have every single Cosmos score on their team. With this accomplishment, and their sportsmanlike conduct, they conquered.

Sebastian Salls came out strong in the first quarter with six points and rebound after rebound. The cosmos were dominating the boards offensively and defensively throughout the contest. Tim Jack-

son also battled the boards and earned six points, with three rebounds and one steal. Brianna Salo and Lexy Bills each chipped in two in the first eight minutes, with Springfield ending the quarter with a 16-7 lead.

The lead continued into the second quarter, with rebounds from Alana Blum and Sam Bailey. Bailey was strong on offense, with putbacks that gave him six points, and Blum was able to get a basket as well.

In the third quarter, more buckets were made. For the Cosmos the team scattered these points throughout the game with each player contributing their share. By doing this, they were able to increase their lead by 17 points at the end of the third

quarter with a 40-23 lead. In the final quarter, they shared more buckets amongst themselves to give Springfield the big win over Otter Valley.

Throughout the whole game, Springfield's players scored points, rebounded, and played hard defense.

Final point totals were Sebastian Salls with 10 points, Tim Jackson with eight points, Lexy Bills and Sam Bailey both with six points, Emily Toner, Isaiah Short, Josh Graves, and Alan Blum each with four points, and Brianna Salo, Patrick Toner, and Nakita Merritt each with two points.

On Wednesday, April 26, Springfield heads out to Mill River for a 4 p.m. tip off.

Reinbow Riding Center

BELMONT, Vt. - On Saturday, May 6, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Reinbow Riding Center (RRC) will be holding their annual Spring Volunteer Orientation and Clinic. This is a chance for everyone to get up close and personal with a few of their extraordinary horses, and experience the comradery of the volunteer staff

and team. It is also a chance for anyone that is curious about Reinbow Riding Center to visit and see if you would like to join the team.

No horse experience is necessary, as there are many other ways lend a hand, but if you have always wanted to experience horses, this is a great way to get started. The riding center provides services for individuals from age 3 and up, and volunteers are usually age 14 and up. Volunteering with RRC can also fulfill community service commitments.

Reinbow Riding Center is a therapeutic horsemanship center, located at Stone Wall Farm in Belmont. RRC's goal is to extend horizons not just with the scenery, but also as a participant or a volunteer. Many participant riders are children with special needs and challenges of all types – physical, emotional, cognitive, or trauma related. Therapeutic horse-

manship has been shown to give individuals with challenges a leg up, and help them improve their lives. School children who have participated in their programs will often get a whole new outlook, and have fewer difficulties at school. The physical aspects of riding can also be very therapeutic for those with physical challenges, expanding and improving their abilities.

Volunteering is a commitment, but at RRC it's a very flexible commitment. For more information, please visit their new website, www.reinbowridingcenter.org, and follow us on Facebook or Instagram, @reinbow_riding_center. Contact us at programs@reinbowridingcenter.org or 802-236-2483 to inquire about our programs and lessons. For information about opportunities to volunteer with us contact janetupton@reinbowridingcenter.org.

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