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# THE SHOPPER Newspaper

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## Paul Kane: local business owner, philanthropist, friend

BY JOE MILLIKEN

The Shopper

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt.** – Longtime local resident Paul Kane, who was born in Bellows Falls in 1952 and grew up in North Walpole, N.H., (also Palatka, Fla.), recently passed away peacefully at his home in Newfane, Vt.

After graduating from high school, Paul attended Northeastern University in Boston; and New England College in both Henniker, N.H., and Arundel, Sussex, England, where he majored in psychology and sociology. Upon graduating from college and after returning to the states, Paul launched a successful career in social services with the Department of Social Services in South Carolina.

In the late 1970s, Paul then decided to tackle a master's degree, attending the Graduate School of Social Work at New York University, and then Georgia State University in Atlanta, while continuing his career in social work, counseling, and corrections.

After returning to Vermont and marrying Marie (Madore) Stowell, who preceded him in death, Paul launched his own business by opening PK's Irish Pub in 1988, located on Westminster Street in Bellows Falls. After over 30 years of growing the business into one of the more successful establishments on The Square, he decided to sell the popular bar and eatery to another local entrepreneur, Brian Joy.

"There was a gentleman



Paul Kane, former owner of PK's in Bellows Falls, who recently passed away.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY BRIAN JOY

outside of Vermont that was also interested in the space, but it would no longer be PK's, and Paul really wanted to find someone that would keep it the tradition that it had become," Joy stated in a recent interview. "I think it's really cool that he passed up a far more lucrative deal in order to keep the pub owned locally and have someone with local roots take it into the future.

"It's really an honor. I loved this place when it first opened, and used to visit my uncle when he worked there in the late 80s and early 90s. So many people I know have always called PK's their hometown pub, their home away from home. To be able to tell Paul that it will always be PK's really meant a lot to me...and it means even more now.

"Paul was always this 'larger than life' persona to me.

He was someone that everyone knew and everyone liked, but it was the behind the scenes stuff – that I got a little window into the past few years – learning about 35 years at PK's and the stories Paul left behind that really made me respect what he built. He was always willing to help – donating to every school and community fundraiser that came through the door – and never asking for credit. He will be dearly missed by so many."

This writer remembers Paul as a loyal friend, quick to reach out when you needed a sympathetic ear, advice, or a helping hand. He was always interested in my writing endeavors and how my family was doing. Mr. PK will always be missed and fondly remembered.

## Exciting announcement from the Springfield Family Center

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – The Springfield Family Center (SFC) is excited to announce that, after an exhaustive search, we have found our new home. As we work to complete renovations, in the new year we will be moving to Shaw's Plaza (formerly Precision Pools storefront). Our official opening announcement will be made once renovations are completed.

Since 1971, SFC has been able to connect individuals and families to charitable food resources with the gracious help of our community. We would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to the community for supporting our mission to ensure every individual has the food they need to thrive.

Food insecurity must be treated as the urgent crisis it is. One in three Springfield residents struggle with food insecurity. 52% of Vermont households report having to choose between purchasing food or paying their bills.

Springfield Family Cen-

ter's food shelf and hot meal programs provide sustenance and nutrition to those who would otherwise go hungry. Over the past fiscal year, the Springfield Family Center distributed 44,368 meals, 10,261 pounds of fresh produce, 7,051 loaves of bread, and 33,160 pounds of shelf stable food through 680 visits to the food shelf serving 1,263 people cumulatively. We also distributed 102 holiday themed boxes feeding over 300 people.

The Springfield Family Center is more than a food pantry. It is a vital and imperative part of our communities. SFC launched and stocked a small food pantry at Springfield Elementary School to remove stigma and reduce barriers to children receiving needed nutrition. This school pantry was accessed by 38 households over the course of the 2022-2023 school year.

SFC provides food boxes to both our community mental health organization, as well as our local housing

programs. Over the course of the last fiscal year, SFC averaged 100 food boxes monthly to these constituents.

Springfield Family Center is collaborating with North Star Health through their lifestyle medicine program to introduce food as medicine for people living with chronic health issues. SFC provides food directly to medical care offices through North Star Health. This empowers physicians within this program to prescribe and distribute medically tailored meal kits directly at appointments.

During the Covid pandemic, SFC partnered with SEVCA and Chester Helping Hands to feed thousands of community members facing adversity utilizing local restaurants and Vermont food producers. Over the course of three years, this partnership brought nearly \$3 million into our local economy to support restaurants, with 10% of this funding going directly to lo-

## Springfield Rotary Stuff-a-Truck successful

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** – The Springfield Rotary Club held a very successful "Stuff-a-Truck" event on Nov. 18, in the Springfield Plaza, to benefit the Springfield Family Center. The event raised 1,140 pounds of food, and another 50 pounds of non-food personal care items. In addition, donors provided \$500 in cash, which the Family Center will use to purchase items through the Vermont Food Bank.

PHOTO PROVIDED



## Rockingham Selectboard reviews budget items

BY PAULA BENSON

The Shopper

**ROCKINGHAM, Vt.** – At the Tuesday, Nov. 21 Rockingham Selectboard meeting, board members Rick Cowan and Bonnie North handed out copies of the survey they created to poll Rockingham voters on town meeting attendance.

North mentioned that there had been a delay in mailing out postcards due to them having incomplete addresses for some registered voters. North and Cowan said they were working with the town office to locate the missing informa-

tion. Once the postcards are printed and mailed, North said, there would be paper copies distributed at the library, senior center, and town hall. The survey will also be posted on the town website and social media sites.

Everyone agreed the low voter turnout had been getting worse over the past few years, and perhaps was a fallout of the pandemic. North called it a "dangerous situation" and remarked, "my hope is that, regardless of what the survey responses tell us, it will raise awareness among our voters that we need to do something. If you really want [things] to change, you've got to come to the next town meeting and vote."

Scott Pickup, town manager, announced the town was no longer collecting leaves, and asked that residents take any remaining yard materials to the recycling center. Pickup also reminded everyone that the annual Bellows Falls Festival of Lights was coming up on Dec. 9.

Library director Ian Graham presented the board with the latest draft of the library's operating budget, and outlined some of the issues they were currently facing.

Despite dealing with rising operating costs and moderate profits from book sales, Graham said the library was still moving forward with new programs and making more resources available to the community. He mentioned that they were proceeding with a grant application that had been delayed due to the floods, and felt confident they would be awarded the funds.

Graham told the board they'd signed a three-year agreement

with the union for all employees that work at least 19 hours per week.

With town budget season well underway, the board also heard from Deb Wright, Rockingham Social Service Review Committee chair, who reviewed their fiscal year 2024 budget, and presented the committee's recommendations for the board to consider.

Pickup reported on the town's major capital projects and debt schedule, detailing some concerns such as upcoming loan payments, skyrocketing costs to purchase vehicles, equipment, and materials, and high interest rates for current loans.

He asked for the board's help in finding ways to offset expenses for the bridge repair projects and the completion of the myriad ongoing construction projects underway. He told the board they "will need to take some serious looks" at how to accommodate requests and continue to maintain public safety services.

"It is important to be able to present the public with the bigger picture," Pickup urged, "so hard decisions can be made [with regards to future disbursements coming in 2025]." On a positive note, Pickup shared that the town could expect to see "significant relief" in 2026.

"There is some good news in these numbers," Pickup stated. "It's not all doom and gloom."

Pickup pointed out that because Vermont is such a small state, the state representatives are fairly accessible, and will work with the town to help find solutions to budget shortfalls.

The selectboard will meet next on Tuesday, Dec. 5.

Agendas and minutes for the selectboard meetings are available to view at [www.rockinghamvt.org](http://www.rockinghamvt.org).

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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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# Springfield Garden Club hosts Holiday Market

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – The Springfield Garden Club will be hosting a Holiday Market this year on Friday, Dec. 1, and Saturday, Dec. 2, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. The shop is located in the plaza at the old Young's Propane location between Family Dollar and Great Northern Liquidation. We will be selling our holiday arrangements, wreaths and other decorations that are handmade by our talented club members. These are the same items that we usually sell at our Festival of Trees, which we are unable to host

this year. There will be something for everyone, including a table of gently-used holiday items. Shop early as things disappear quickly. Hope to see you there.

The Springfield Garden Club is a volunteer-based organization, and always welcomes new members. Anyone interested in learning more can go to our website, [www.springfieldgardenclub.org](http://www.springfieldgardenclub.org), where information about our activities and a membership application can be found.

# Seraphic Fire to perform in Grafton

GRAFTON, Vt. – Grammy-nominated vocal ensemble Seraphic Fire brings their a cappella voices to Vermont for a Seraphic Fire Christmas concert at the Grafton Brick Meeting House on Saturday, Dec. 2, at 7 p.m. The South Florida-based choir will perform festive carols from varied traditions alongside newer takes on classics from contemporary composers. The program includes "Away in a Manger" by William J. Kirkpatrick; "Silent Night," by Franz Xaver Gruber; and from their new album "Jesus Christ the Apple Tree" by Elizabeth Poston, among a full program including selections from their just-released album and prior Christmas albums "Candlelight Carols" and "Silent Night," along with

the Grammy-nominated "A Seraphic Fire Christmas." Seraphic Fire's associate conductor James K. Bass will lead the ensemble of 13 singers. Bass is also the director of choral studies at UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music, and won the 2020 Grammy for Best Choral Performance for his work as choirmaster on the Naxos recording of "The Passion of Yeshua." This is the only performance of "A Seraphic Fire Christmas" outside of South Florida, making this a special opportunity for northerners to hear this nationally-recognized choral ensemble. Tickets to the Seraphic Fire Christmas Concert are may be purchased at [www.seraphicfire.org/christmas-on-tour](http://www.seraphicfire.org/christmas-on-tour), or by phone at 305-285-9060.

# December tech help in Springfield

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – What tech gift might you get this holiday season that you may need help with? The Springfield Town Library is ready and willing to help you use it to its full potential on Monday, Dec. 11, at 1 p.m. The featured small group class this month focuses on setting up that computer that is new to you.

The class will cover the initial computer setup, adding an administrator and standard user account (and why both are needed), finding and installing added software such as web browsers and office software, and

configuring settings. There will be an opportunity to address additional questions you may have.

While personal computers aren't needed for this class, if you have questions or need help with a device, feel free to bring it along. The class is limited to four people, so signing up is a must.

Individual tech help sessions are also available at the library two Mondays in December, Dec. 4 and Dec. 18, at 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Please call the library at 802-885-3108 or visit the library's website at [www.springfieldtownlibrary.org](http://www.springfieldtownlibrary.org) to sign up for either the individual or small group tech help programs.

# Meet with legislators in Rockingham

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On Thursday, Dec. 7, at 6:30 p.m., come to the top floor meeting room of the Rockingham Free Public Library in Bellows Falls to chat with your Windham County Senators Nader Hashim

and Wendy Harrison, and your Windham-3 (Brookline, Rockingham and Westminster) Representatives Michelle Bos-Lun and Leslie Goldman.

This session will provide an opportunity for community members to ask questions about issues that will be addressed in the upcoming legislative session, which starts on Jan. 3 in Montpelier. Legislators will also give updates about expected legislative priorities and pending bills. The Windham-3 representatives and Windham County senators are eager to return to the State House.

This meeting at the library will help your senators and representatives understand what is important to our Brookline, Rockingham, and Westminster constituents and take these concerns to Montpelier in January.

Subsequent community conversations are planned for the third Saturday of each month, at 10:30 a.m., during the legislative session from January-May.

Come for a conversation about current issues, and bring your questions.

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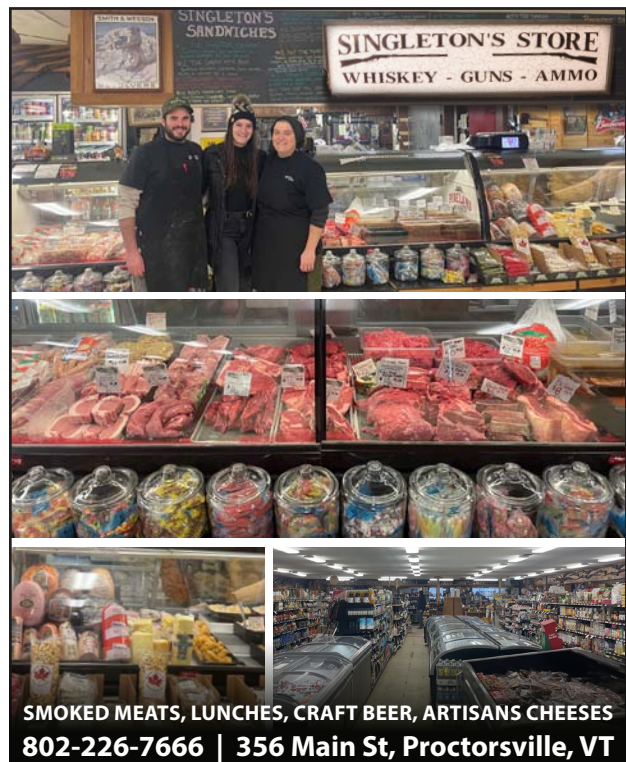
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## The VAULT welcomes Brenda “Grannie” Snow —

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. — Gallery at the VAULT is ever so happy to welcome the amazing children’s book author Brenda “Grannie” Snow to the gallery. Her books are delightfully written, with wonderful illustrations by Matthew Gauvin.

Grannie Snow had always dreamed of being an author, and then the magic of grandchildren took hold. Huddled in her oversized recliner, surrounded by her grandkids intently listening to her read was the inspira-

tion she needed to take action.

Bringing The Silas Series and The Veggie Series to life felt like the perfect reflection of the unconditional love of grandchildren and pets. Grannie Snow holds two associate’s degrees from Community College of Vermont, attended Northern Vermont University through their External Degree Program, and previously served as the director of human resources for Turtle Fur. A native of Vermont, she lives with her

two cats Big Ole Striped Silas and Miss Opal in southern Vermont.

For more information, please call 802-885-7111, email galleryvault@vermontel.net, visit www.galleryvault.org or the gallery’s Facebook page, or come into Gallery at the VAULT, 68 Main Street in Springfield. The gallery is open Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Friday, from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

## Bob Stannard in Weston —

WESTON, Vt. — Maestro of the harmonica since 1969, Bob Stannard returns to the stage to support Weston Theater with a high-energy, flood relief fundraising concert on Dec. 9, at 7:30 p.m. Notorious for quick licks and showmanship, Stannard has made music with some of the greatest blues players of all time, including BB King, Charlie Musselwhite, and John Hammond.

Joining Stannard and his band for an electrifying night of blues are musical sensations John Fusco on keys and vocals, Stephen Kiernan on guitar and vocals, and Jon Berman on saxophone. The notorious “Dan-

gerous Bluesmen” reuniting at Walker Farm feature Jeff Salisbury on drums and vocals, Kenny B on bass, Brad Morgan on keys and vocals, John Falk on guitar and vocals, and Joe Moore on sax and vocals.

Says Weston’s executive artistic director Susanna Gellert, “We are honored that Bob has come out of retirement to put together this concert. Music has always brought people together in times of need, and the blues have always been about resilience and rising in the face of adversity. We’re so grateful that Bob Stannard, the Bluesmen, and their music are here to unite our com-

munity and help rebuild what’s been lost.”

All ticket proceeds and donations associated with this event will be directly applied to ongoing 2023 flood relief efforts. Tickets went on sale Nov. 1, so get your dancing shoes ready to kick off the winter season with Vermont’s premier blues band. Early access was made available for subscribers and Producers Circle members on Oct. 24. For tickets and more information, visit www.westontheater.org/bob-stannard. Contact the box office at 802-824-5288, or by emailing tickets@westontheater.org.

## The Rasa String Quartet —

PUTNEY, Vt. — Next Stage Arts presents Boston-based Rasa String Quartet at Next Stage on Saturday, Dec. 9, at 7:30 p.m.

The Rasa String Quartet celebrates the art of strumming and works inspired by strummed instruments, for string quartet. This program pairs old masterworks from Beethoven, Debussy, and Turina alongside newly celebrated classics from Jessie Montgomery and Caroline Shaw.

The program will be “String Quartet in G Minor, II. Assez vif et bien rythmé,” by Claude Debussy; “Strum,” by Jessie Montgomery; “Valencia,” by Caroline Shaw; “The Bull-fighter’s Prayer,” by Joaquín Turina; and “String Quartet No. 10 in E-flat Major, Op. 74 ‘Harp’” by Ludwig van Beethoven.

The Boston-based Rasa String Quartet finds their niche exploring the musical space where classical and folk traditions intersect and influence one another.

They are winners of the 2022 Associazione Europea Di Musica E Comunicazione International Chamber Music Competition in

Italy, the 2021 Music Teachers National Association Chamber Music Competition in Atlanta, the 2020 Chamber Music Yellow Springs Competition in Ohio, and were the 2022-2023 ensemble in residence at Phillips Exeter Academy. The quartet can be found collaborating with the pre-eminent folk musicians of today, performing their own programs in venues and festivals around the country, and participating in artistic and educational residencies at a variety of institutions.

By exploring the connection between music and storytelling at the heart of folk traditions, Rasa String Quartet delivers engaging and accessible programs that showcase works from a variety of cultures and highlight unknown composers. They seek to educate their audiences by contextualiz-

ing the genres, styles, and composers they present, inviting their listeners to approach both familiar and unfamiliar sounds with an open and curious mind.

Find out more at www.rasastringquartet.com.

Next Stage is located at 15 Kimball Hill in downtown Putney, Vt. Tickets are discounted in advance at www.nextstagearts.org. There is also a livestream option. Next Stage will provide a beer, wine, and cocktail cash bar. For more information, call 802-387-0102 or visit the website above.

## The old days

BY RON PATCH

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ronpatch27@gmail.com

The photo with this article is a 1909 postcard. Not only is it a great photograph, it reveals some interesting history.

### The team

The young oxen are in a small ox yoke, drawing a small wagon of some sort. You’ll notice the oxen are not matched when it comes to size. There is, written in white letters at the bottom, “Sept. 7 1909 Dick. Dan. Clyde Clark.” Charles Wellman was the photographer, and wrote this title in white ink directly on the glass negative. This way each postcard printed had this information.

Dick is the larger ox at left, Dan the smaller at right. A young Clyde Clark stands at right. I love the way he is dressed, including his cap. The photo was taken in 1909 Popple Dungeon at Frank Clark’s house. Today this is where Ruth Zezza lives.

If you look close, you can see in Clyde’s right hand a switch. The switch wasn’t used to whip the oxen. With repeated commands and touching the ox with the switch in different places, the ox learned what to do. This is what makes a teamster. Clyde’s father Frank was such a teamster.

In the old days, young boys and girls were taught by their parents a trade or skill. Parents prepared their kids for the world. In this photo, Clyde is 9 years old. Already he has a team of oxen earning money. Can you imagine a 9-year-old today driving a truck or making money?

### Cattails

Clyde’s load is cattails. You can see the handle of a pitchfork sticking up. Cattails grow in



Clyde Clark with Dick and Dan.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY RON PATCH

wet, swampy areas. Clyde has gathered cattails to sell. There was undoubtedly a business in town that bought cattails, and shipped them via the railroad to points south.

As far back as the 1700s, cattails were used for rush seats in chairs. This continued into the early 1920s. Many will know of chairs with cane or splint seats. Clyde might have walked beside his oxen to Chester. On the return trip he would have ridden back. There may have been other uses for cattails that I am unaware of.

My father caned chair seats. He put rush seats in six Hitchcock chairs we had. By this time cattails were no longer used. Dad used rush made of twisted paper.

Clyde was a lister for the Town of Chester for years. He was a plumber by profession. His shop and home were on Elm Street on the town hall end.

In the photo I used last week was a load of firewood in front of the Donniss place. The driver was unidentified. Jon Clark has the same postcard. On Jon’s card the driver is identified as Frank

Clark. That was a Wellman photo, as is the photo with this article. Wellman also photographed the annual Old Home Days in Popple Dungeon.

### The message

The message on the address side: “Dear cousin Lora. I am sorry you did not come over this year. We are going to Aunt Mary’s for Christmas. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. From Clyde Clark.” Jon Clark tells me Mary was Mary Clark Warner.

It was mailed from Chester on Dec. 23, 1909, to “Mrs. Lora Frail, Sunapee, N.H.” Jon did not know who Lora was.

In an old Carpenter Store News I read where Clyde was building his fifth house in Chester.

*Instead of an old saying, I offer a short story. I was at a Dick Withington auction in Hillsboro, N.H., many years ago. He was selling an antique chair with a partial rush seat. By partial I mean it had a large hole in the center. Dick said, “This fine Chippendale chair has a rush seat. Sit in it and you’ll rush right through it.”*

### HOOP SHOOT

Elks Basketball Free Throw Contest

Open to all Boys & Girls, ages 8-13 by April 1, 2024. Contest for the Bellows Falls Union area through the Fall Mountain region. Shooting 25 Free Throws, trophies handed out for the 1st place finishers of each age/gender division. Event 1st place shooters move to the District level, Sun. Jan. 7, 2024 at 10 am, at Windsor, Vt.

Sat., Dec. 2, 2023, 10:00 am - Noon  
Bellows Falls Middle School, 15 School St.  
Doors Open (approx.) 9:45 am for registration  
Event Starts at 10 am (youngest division first)

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# holiday happenings

## Yulefest returns to Saxtons River

SAXTONS RIVER, Vt. – Santa will make his appearance in Saxtons River when the village hosts its second annual Yulefest on Sunday, Dec. 3.

The afternoon's festivities begin at 3 p.m., with a free concert at the community center, 24 Main Street, featuring Brattleboro Union High School's Shoulder Narrows a cappella group and the Vermont Academy chorus. A children's craft fair will also take place there beginning at 2:30 p.m.

The activities then move to Main Street Arts, where Santa's Village will host visits with the jolly elf himself, story time, a model train, kids

crafts, cookies, and cocoa, from 3-6 p.m.

Local artists and artisans will be set up offering jewelry, candles, relishes and jams, bread, jigsaw puzzles, personalized ornaments, wooden ware, gloves, and other items for holiday gift shopping, and the Grafton Historical Society will be selling wreaths.

There will be caroling around the piano and selections by the Main Street Arts children's chorus, which will accompany Santa to the Saxtons River Historical Society for the tree lighting at 5 p.m.

Also, Sarah James's



Saxtons River Yulefest, Dec. 3. PHOTO PROVIDED

Smokin' Bowls will be set up for family-friendly supper dishes such as mac and cheese.

The event is free of charge and open to all.

## Springfield's Downtown Holiday Program

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Save the date, mark your calendars, and join us for Springfield's annual Downtown Holiday Program on Friday, Dec. 1.

Once again, the Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce and Springfield On The Move are teaming up to bring an evening of family fun and cheer to the community.

Festivities will kick off with Springfield On The Move's Sticker Map, starting

at Uplift Acrobatics, 39 Main Street, at 4 p.m. Kids also receive a goodie bag and the opportunity to select from an assortment of handmade mittens donated by Knit Wits and Shirley Cooper.

Avant Vermont Dance will be performing the third installment of the "SEASONS" series, "Winter," in the Woodbury Courtyard (in front of the movie theater) at 5 p.m.

Starting at 4 p.m., Clafin Family Food will be set up across from the tree lighting, at the entrance to Comtu Cascade Park, 5 Main Street, selling their yummy food until 6:30 p.m.

The Springfield Community Band will bring holiday cheer from 5:30-6 p.m.

And as always, the cham-

ber has invited Santa to come to town for our community tree lighting ceremony in the Springfield Food Co-op lot at 6 Main Street. Santa will make his grand entrance at 6 p.m., and he will be on site in his special house until 8 p.m., to visit with all the children.

Thank you to John Landry and WCFR Your Hometown Classic Hits for coming on site and broadcasting the event live.

We look forward to the gathering on Dec. 1, and we hope you can join us for this merry celebration.

Unable to attend? Drop off a letter to Santa in the mail slot in Santa's House, 6 Main Street, or visit Santa at his house on Saturday, Dec. 16, from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

## Rockingham Holiday Party

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – On Saturday, Dec. 2, the Friends of the Rockingham Library will host a Community Holiday Party from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. The public is invited to this free event. There will be plenty of holiday refreshments and live music. Winning tickets for the Friends' Holiday Raffle will be

drawn. All proceeds from the raffle will benefit the Friends of the Rockingham Library. For more information, email programming@rockinghamlibrary.org, call 802-463-4270, visit the Library at 65 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls, or go to www.rockinghamlibrary.org.

## Westminster Christmas Bazaar

WESTMINSTER, Vt. – The First Congregational Church of Westminster Women's Fellowship will hold their annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., at 3470 Route 5 in Westminster, Vt.

There will be locally made gifts, holiday crafts, homemade treats, and useful attic treasures.

The Christmas Café will be open for lunch, and the menu will include chili, corn chowder, and hot dogs. Also available will be baked goods for sale. Pick up

something for your holiday celebrations – many items can be frozen.

From 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Santa will be on hand for pictures. Also for the kids, there will be a kids craft table. Bring your kids and grandkids, and we will keep them busy while you shop or get your lunch ordered.

Buy a raffle ticket for the Vermont Basket loaded with Vermont products. The ticket will be drawn at the end of the day. Or try our new chance raffle with many beautiful items.

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# calendar

# LEGAL NOTICES

**DEC. 1 –**  
**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. –** The First Baptist Church in Bellows Falls will hold their First Friday Supper on Friday, Dec. 1, from 5-6:30 p.m., at 9 Church Street. The menu will be ham, potatoes, green beans, green salad, dessert, and a beverage. Vegan and gluten-free options are available. If you would like a take out meal, please call 802-463-3220 before 5 p.m. There is a suggested donation, to benefit the SEVCA Emergency Fuel Fund.

**DEC. 1-2**  
**SPRINGFIELD, Vt. –** The Springfield Garden Club invites you to their holiday shop on Friday, Dec. 1,

and Saturday, Dec. 2, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. The shop is located in the plaza between Family Dollar and Great Northern Liquidation. There will be fresh holiday arrangements, wreaths, and other handmade decorations for sale. Shop early, as items will disappear quickly.

**DEC. 2 –**  
**ATHENS, Vt. –** There will be a Kids Christmas Bazaar and Cookie Swap on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 1-3 p.m., at the Athens Community Center, 28 Brookline Road in Athens, Vt.

**GRAFTON, Vt. –** Fresh cut Vermont Christmas trees will be on sale on Saturday,

Dec. 2, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., at the firehouse, 711 Route 121, east of Grafton Village, to benefit the Fire and Rescue Scholarship Fund.

**LONDONDERRY, Vt. –** The annual Christmas Bazaar at the Second Congregational Church in Londonderry, 2051 North Main Street, will be held on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., in the Church Friendship Room. There will be handmade wreaths to purchase, a delicious lunch served, a “cookie walk,” crafts and gift items to purchase, and much, much fun to be had. Come join us for a wonderful day to get into the Christmas spirit. For more information, please call the church office at 802-824-6453.

**DEC. 3 –**  
**WESTMINSTER, Vt. –** The Westmoreland Town Band will hold a Christmas Concert on Sunday, Dec. 3, at 4 p.m., at the First Congregational Church of

Westminster, 3470 Route 5 in Westminster, Vt. This fabulous Christmas concert is a great way to kick off your holiday season. After the concert, join us for refreshments, and visit with the musicians.

**DEC. 9 –**  
**CHESTER, Vt. –** The Stone Village Art Guild, in cooperation with the First Universalist Parish of Chester, will hold a Fine Art and Craft Fair on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., at the First Universalist Parish, 211 North Street. The Fair will feature fine art, including watercolors, oil, and pastels by local artists. Crafts, sweater style mittens that Bernie would be proud to wear, fabric baskets, jewelry, ornaments, and a bake sale will also be available. For more information, contact Melody at 802-875-5414 or email melodious54@gmail.com.

**GRAFTON, Vt. –** Fresh cut Vermont Christmas trees will be on sale next to the

Grafton Inn, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., to benefit the Fire and Rescue Scholarship Fund. Santa will arrive accompanied by a fire engine, and tours the village at 11:30 a.m. on his way to the library for story time.

**DEC. 11 –**  
**LUDLOW, Vt. –** The Black River Valley Senior Center will host a Christmas Luncheon with music by Rust and Ruin on Monday, Dec. 11, at 12 p.m., at 10 High Street in Ludlow. Lunch will be hot roast beef sandwiches, string beans, and cupcakes. Please make reservations by calling 802-228-7421. All are welcome.

**SUNDAYS –**  
**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. –** Bellows Falls Loyol 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 Street in Bellows Falls, from 8-10 a.m. All you can eat for a minimal cost.

**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 more. Cadets as young as 12 and senior members of any age make up this diverse group of volunteers.

**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.

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt. –** Free Gentle Hatha Yoga classes for ages 50 and over are held on Mondays from 10-11 a.m., at the Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street. All equipment is provided.

**ROCKINGHAM, Vt. –** The Rockingham Library hosts a chess club each Monday

from 3-5:30 p.m., led by Mike Sola. All levels of players will be welcomed.

**TUESDAYS –**  
**CHESTER, Vt. –** Bone Builders Class in Chester every Tuesday, 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.

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt. –** Free Chair Yoga classes for ages 50 and over are held on Tuesdays from 9-9:45 a.m., at the Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street. All equipment is provided.

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

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

**BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. –** Knitting Together, every Wednesday, 1-3 p.m., at Village Square Booksellers, knitting hats and mittens for our school kids. We provide yarn, some direction, and an enjoyable visit. Acrylic yarn donations are always welcome. For more information, contact Caroline at 802-463-4653.

**THURSDAYS –**  
**TYSON, Vt. –** The Tyson Ladies Aid Library Association meets the first Thursday of each month, typically at the Tyson Library. Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. and meetings start at noon. New potential members are always welcome. Please call Janine Norman at 802-228-8764 for more information or to verify meeting location.

**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. –** Free Chair Yoga classes for ages 50 and over are held on Thursdays from 9-9:45 a.m., at the Springfield Senior Center, 139 Main Street. All equipment is provided.

**N. SPRINGFIELD, Vt. –** Support group for parents of pregnancy and infant loss on the first Thursday of the month, from 6-7 p.m., at Springfield Area Parent Child Center, 6 Main Street in North Springfield. For details or to register, email dominiquer@sapcc-vt.org or call 802-886-5242 ext. 258.

**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.

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

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

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**TOWN OF ATHENS, VERMONT  
 Equipment Operator / Truck Driver**

The Town of Athens, Vermont is seeking qualified applicants for a full-time Equipment Operator / Truck Driver. Job duties include snow plowing, salting and sanding in the winter months and general highway maintenance and construction work in the other months. The employee must be able to perform general labor duties and minor repairs and maintenance of highway equipment. The ability to communicate in a courteous manner to coworkers and the general public is required. Must have a valid Commercial Driver’s License (CDL). The Town of Athens is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer and offers an excellent benefits package. Applications are available at the Athens Town Office at 25 Brookline Rd., Athens, VT 05143, or can be downloaded at [www.athensvt.com](http://www.athensvt.com). Questions can be directed to the Town Clerk at [townoffice@athensvt.gov](mailto:townoffice@athensvt.gov) or (802) 869-3370. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

**NOTICE  
 Town of Cavendish  
 Public Hearing  
 Town Plan Energy Chapter**

The Town of Cavendish invites the public to a hearing to discuss the draft Energy Chapter to be included in the Cavendish Town Plan. A copy of the draft Energy Chapter can be found on the Towns website [www.cavendishvt.com](http://www.cavendishvt.com)

Time/Date: 6:00 PM December 11th, 2023

Location: Cavendish Town Hall  
 37 High Street  
 Cavendish VT

Join Zoom Meeting:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81312391910?pwd=WmtmYkRH-RElwdTQ0aTg4ZE9JZGpTd09>  
 Meeting ID: 813 1239 1910  
 Passcode: Cavendish

**Town of Plymouth, Vermont  
 Lister Position Available**

The Town of Plymouth has an opening for a part-time Lister. Applicant must be a resident of the Town of Plymouth. This position is approximately 15-20 hours a week with a flexible schedule. Initially, there will be in-depth, outside, training provided to maximize Listers time with a review within six (6) months.

- A Lister plays an important role in the Town as it is the official who is charged with determining the value of real property in the Town on which the Select Board will set a tax rate.
- Listers will appraise all taxable property in the Town at the fair market value. The estimated fair market value is the price that the property will bring in the open market when offered for sale.
- Listers must set all real property in the Grand List at one percent of its listed value on April 1 of the year of its appraisal.
- Listers will provide an annual abstract of the Grand List to the Town Clerk for forwarding to the Vermont Department of Taxes Division of Property Valuation and Review. Timely filing is necessary for the receipt of State Highway and Education Aid.
- Listers hold grievance hearings for tax payers who wish to grieve their appraised value. The decisions of the Listers may be appealed to the Board of Civil Authority, and the Listers may appear before the Board to defend the appraised values in question.
- The Listers sit as part of the Board of Tax Abatement to determine whether a taxpayer may have his or her taxes abated.
- Many of the Listers’ job responsibilities have requirements concerning timing, notification, and format, as well as substance, which must be strictly adhered to. Towns have lost appeals because procedural details were overlooked. You must carefully read, understand and follow the statutes.
- Assist the public by answering questions and explaining everything from the valuation process to homestead/house site values as well as the appeal process.
- Be able to unravel complex questions regarding mapping and parcel data.
- Data organization and filing from appeals, bills, purchase requests, etc.
- Building permit data entry and spreadsheets when the CAMA System AssessPro is in place.
- Be able to find a value for each parcel in ownership of multiple parcels.
- Correspondence
- Stay up-to-date by attending classes, seminars and webinars.
- Knowledge of NEMRC, VTPie, word, and excel a plus, but not mandatory.

Please submit your resume and/or a completed application to the Plymouth Town Clerk’s Office at 68 Town Office Road, Plymouth, Vermont 05056 or email [clerk@plymouthvt.org](mailto:clerk@plymouthvt.org). Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The Town of Plymouth is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**TOWN OF GRAFTON  
 INVITATION TO BID**

The Town of Grafton, Vermont is accepting bids to reconstruct the retaining wall at the Village Pump Park in the village. Please contact Morgan Wilbur, Town Administrator, at (802) 843-2552 or [townadmin@grafftonvt.org](mailto:townadmin@grafftonvt.org) to receive the bid instructions and specification sheet. **Returned sealed bids must be received by the Town Administrator by 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 14, 2023.** The Town of Grafton reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids and has the right to accept any other than the lowest bid if determined to be in the best interest of the town.

**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 12/20/2023, to hold a public hearing for an application from Mark Wright for a subdivision on Haven Hill Rd.

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](mailto:zoningadmin@londonderryvt.org).

**TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD  
 DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD**

The Town of Springfield Development Review Board will hold their public hearings at 6:30 pm, Tuesday, December 12, 2023, to review the following development proposals: (1) Perimeter fence for a property located at 220 Summer Street; (2) Home business to grow indoor cannabis located at 355 Seavers Brook Road; and (3) Home business or mixed use proposal to grow indoor and greenhouse cannabis located at 31 French Meadow Road. Individuals 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](mailto:toszoning@vermontel.net)) for copies of meeting agenda and zoning applications.

**Town of Rockingham  
 Final Public Hearing  
 VCDP Implementation Grant 2019**

The Town of Rockingham received \$292,745 from the State of Vermont for a grant under the Vermont Community Development Program. A public hearing will be held at 7 The Square, Bellows Falls, VT 05101 on 12/19/2023 at 6:00 PM to obtain the views of citizens on community development, to furnish information concerning the range of community development activities that have been undertaken under this program, and to give affected citizens the opportunity to examine a statement of the use of these funds. The VCDP Funds received have been used to accomplish the following activities:

All National Low and Moderate Income and State Housing objectives were met:  
 The property is fully leased up

The project was 2 months behind schedule. Given challenges with the labor pool, this was good.

Final Construction cost: \$7,494,683.37  
 Final Total Development Cost: \$9,998,562.35  
 Final Cost/unit: \$370,317/unit. This was surprising to see, although costs are even 50% higher than this now.

Bellows Falls Garage has been nominated for a few design and construction awards. We should know more by the end of the year, but folks are very optimistic about them.

Information on this project may be obtained from and viewed during the hours of 7:00 am-4:30 pm, Mon-Thu at 7 The Square, Bellows Falls, VT 05101 starting on 11/28/2023. Should you require any special accommodations please contact Gary Fox at 802-376-5425 to ensure appropriate accommodations are made. For the hearing impaired please call (TTY) #1-800-253-0191.

Legislative Body for the Town of Rockingham

# classifieds

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**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR:** Nonprofit Windsor County social service agency seeking full-time Assistant Director. Professional, self-motivated and knowledgeable with excellent communication and technical skills. Previous experience preferred. Competitive salary and benefits. For detailed job description submit cover letter and resume to: [kkellingtonbrngns@gmail.com](mailto:kkellingtonbrngns@gmail.com).

Openings for a **MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIAN** to provide psychotherapeutic services, and a **PSYCHOMETRIC TECHNICIAN** to administer psychological and neuropsychological tests. Twin State Psychological Services, PO Box 2003, Springfield, VT. Phone 802-885-5719.

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆**

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging  
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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## King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
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- ACROSS**
- 1 Microwave
  - 4 Jubilation
  - 8 Scruff
  - 12 "— Believer"
  - 13 Give temporarily
  - 14 Big-screen format
  - 15 Layered deserts
  - 17 Refer to
  - 18 Irate
  - 19 Breaks away
  - 21 Stockholm's land
  - 24 JFK's veep
  - 25 Fleur-de—
  - 26 Cutting tool
  - 28 Parlor pieces
  - 32 Now, on a memo
  - 34 Luau bowlful
  - 36 Karate level
  - 37 Prison-related
  - 39 Atty.'s title
  - 41 Mauna —
  - 42 Soda
  - 44 Steering device on a ship
  - 46 Leaping antelopes
  - 50 Hosp. hook-ups
  - 51 Donald Duck's nephew
  - 52 Like a good golf score
- DOWN**
- 1 Energy
  - 2 Docs' bloc
  - 3 Italian cheese
  - 4 Forest clearings
  - 5 Tiki bar neck-lace
  - 6 Tolkien creatures
  - 7 '50s Ford
  - 8 "Great work!"
  - 9 During
  - 10 Top of the head
  - 11 Former mates
  - 16 Passing craze
  - 20 "Survivor" aier
  - 21 High-five sound
  - 22 Sagacious
  - 23 Snooze
  - 27 Misery
  - 29 Crystalline mineral
  - 30 Skin soother
  - 31 Twinkler in the sky
  - 33 Tropical fruits
  - 35 Leb. neighbor
  - 38 Texer's chuckle
  - 40 Calms
  - 43 "Straight Up" singer Abdul
  - 45 TiVo, for example
  - 46 Denny's rival
  - 47 Inspiration
  - 48 Nuisance
  - 49 Break suddenly
  - 53 Chips go-with
  - 54 Santa — winds
  - 55 Crater part

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- 2016 Kia Sedona EX**  
7 Passenger Auto 4 Cylinder Fully Loaded
- 2016 Jeep Patriot Sport**  
Cruise Control Power Windows Auto 4x4
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### Art Crafts Gifts

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Erik Johansson plays Holiday Music on harp and guitar from 12-2. Wine and Ice cider tasting 12-3 by Eden Ciders, Shelburne Vineyard, and Iapetus Wines from 12-3. Dianne Yelton- hand-woven scarves.

**Workshops, details/register <http://galleryvault.org>**  
Painting the Winter Landscape in Watercolor w/ Rob O'Brien 1/13/24  
Perspective Drawing Basics w/Chris Mix (Zoom) 2/4/24  
Pet Portraits w/ Mindy Fisher 2/24/24  
Pine Needle Basket w/ Irene Dizes 3/8/24 & 3/9/24  
Wire-wrapped Pendant w/ Thomas Alexander 4/6/24  
Flowers in Texture & Color w/ Julie Crabtree 4/27/24

**Current Shows:** Wonders of Fall by VAULT Artists, Open Wall- Autumn Color/Winter White (01/24/24 - TFN - 13)

### Builders/Contractors

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(11/20/24 - 52)

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Dr. Denise Natale 58 Parker Avenue, Proctorsville, VT 05153, 802-226-7977 Hours: Tuesday 1pm-6pm, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 10am-6pm. (08/14/24 - TFN - 52)

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### Okemo Valley TV

**Ways to Watch Local Programming**  
**On TV:** Comcast 1076 & 1086 | VTel 166 & 167  
**Online:** Go to [okemovalley.tv/watch](http://okemovalley.tv/watch) to watch Live TV or on video on demand  
**You Tube:** [okemovalleytv](http://okemovalleytv)  
**Streaming App:** Download Okemo Valley TV app for free (Apple TV, Roku, Fire TV, Google Play, & mobile) (01/03/24 - TFN - 13)

**Weekly SUDOKU —**  
Answers

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

**King Crossword —**  
Answers  
Solution time: 25 mins.

Z	A	P	G	L	E	E	N	A	P	E		
I	M	A	L	E	N	D	I	M	A	X		
P	A	R	F	A	I	T	S	G	I	T	E	
M	A	D	S	E	C	E	D	E	S			
S	W	E	D	E	N	L	E	V				
L	I	S	S	I	A	M	S	T	O	F	A	S
A	S	A	P	P	O	S	E	L	E	T		
R	E	N	A	L	P	E	S	O	I	A		
C	O	P	P	R	O	D	E	R				
I	M	P	A	L	A	S	A	L	S			
H	U	E	L	U	N	D	E	R	P	A	R	
G	S	S	A	L	A	I	T	A	N	I		
P	E	T	S	A	P	P	S	R	A	M		

# holiday happenings

## Visit Santa's Workshop in Springfield

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Tour Santa's Workshop, where each child gets a gift bag to fill up with special surprises like toys, a book, crafts, and treats. Springfield Area Parent Child Center (SAPCC) will once again bring the magic of the holiday season alive for all ages at "Santa's Workshop," being held at their new event hall space located at 51 Jack and Jill Lane (previously known as KJ's Place) in North Springfield, on Saturday, Dec. 9.

SAPCC will be transforming the space into a wintry wonderland where Santa, Mrs. Claus, and their elves invite you to come explore the workshop where the toys are made – and then take one home. There will be activities, giveaways, cookies, cocoa, a gift shop, and all kinds of fun surprises.

Santa's Workshop will be open to the general public for entry from 10-11:30 a.m., and again from 2-3:30

p.m. Santa and his helpers will take a short lunch break from 12:30-1 p.m. When they open back up at 1 p.m., there will be a one-hour sensory-sensitive time for children who prefer less noise, lights, and crowds. The event will begin to shut down at 4 p.m. Please plan for around 45 minutes to experience Santa's Workshop.

Tickets will be available at the door for children ages 2-12. Babies under 2 are free, and accompanying adults pay a small entry fee.

This event is a fundraiser for Springfield Area Parent Child Center, where building bridges of support for young children, families, and caregivers is priority. Last year, the organization reached over 12,000



Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at the SAPCC event hall on Dec. 9. PHOTO PROVIDED

individuals in southern Windsor and northern Windham counties with supports like childcare financial assistance, early intervention, community based child abuse prevention, parent education, playgroups, and welcome baby bags.

Santa's Workshop is sponsored by Mascoma Bank, Springfield GMC, Indelible Inc., and Willow Farm Pet Services – all have contributed to making this event memorable and so much fun for all.

For more information, visit [www.sapcc-vt.org](http://www.sapcc-vt.org), follow the Springfield Area Parent Child Center Facebook page, call 802-886-5242, or email [sapcc@sapcc-vt.org](mailto:sapcc@sapcc-vt.org).

## Dance Factory's 32nd annual "Nutcracker"

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Join Clara on her magical journey to the Kingdom of the Sweets in the Dance Factory's 32nd annual "The Nutcracker," Dec. 9 and 10, at Springfield High School in Springfield, Vt.

This full-length, family-friendly production is an inclusive show that has given hundreds of regional dancers an invaluable performance experience, including the opportunity to dance soloist roles that most schools outsource to adult professionals.

The Snow Queen and Sugar Plum Fairy will be alternately performed by seniors Athena Steele of Springfield and Kameron Yuengling of Weathersfield. Tori McNamara of Weathersfield debuts as the Nutcracker Prince, and Abbie Haber, also of Weathersfield, will be featured as Clara. Ashley Hensel-Browning returns as director and choreographer, with additional choreography by Susan Hagan.

A true community event, the Dance Factory partners with lo-



The cast of "The Nutcracker" at the Dance Factory. PHOTO BY DENISE E. PHOTOGRAPHY

cal schools to bring "The Nutcracker" to area youth. This year, dancers will perform selections from act II at Elm Hill and Union Street in Springfield, and Weathersfield School. The Dance Factory also underwrites SAPA TV's recording and broadcast of "The Nutcracker," which will be freely available on the SAPA TV website. Additionally, over \$25,000 in proceeds from ticket sales have gone to area performing arts organizations, with this year's production benefiting the Springfield High School Drama Club.

Tickets can be purchased at Tina's Hallmark and Woodbury Florist in

Springfield, and Sage Jewelry and Gifts in Chester. Online tickets are available at [dancefactorynutcracker.eventbrite.com](http://dancefactorynutcracker.eventbrite.com). Limited tickets will be available at the door.

Support for "The Nutcracker" has been generously provided by Barrett & Valley Associates, Bean Group, Bibens Ace Hardware, Denise E. Photography, Edward Jones, Getaway Mountain Campground, Halladay's Flowers and Gifts, HB Energy Solutions, Heritage Deli and Bakery, Indelible Inc., Smokeshire Design, Springfield Co-op, Style House Salon, Tina's Hallmark, and Willow Farm.

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## "Santa's Belles" Holiday Drag show

BELLOWS FALLS, Vt. – Bellows Falls Pride has invited Vermont's premiere drag queens to perform in a holiday drag show on Friday, Dec. 8, at the Moose Lodge, 59 Westminster Street in Bellows Falls. Hosted by Emoji Nightmare, "Santa's Belles" will take to the stage for an adult-only evening beginning at 9 p.m. The festivities will include a celebration of local Gay Games Guadalajara participants Roger Barraby (track) of Windsor and Carl Anhalt (water polo) of Bellows Falls.

Performers for "Santa's Belles" feature Anita Cocktail, Emoji Nightmare, Rita Cocktail, Katniss Ever-

queer, Moxxi Hart and Jack Rose, and Prince Muffin, with music by Mama Dukes. Tickets can be purchased in advance on the Rockingham Arts and Museum website, [www.ramp-vt.org](http://www.ramp-vt.org). Click on the "Donate" button, choose "Other," and indicate "Drag Show" in the note line. Confirmation will be emailed to you upon purchase. Seating is first come first served. A full cash bar will be open, and food can be brought in or delivered. Doors open at 8 p.m. This event is for those 18 and older.

Anita Cocktail is the co-host of monthly drag shows at Merchants Hall in Rutland, Vt., and performs in surrounding towns north of Bellows Falls. For the last five years, her

performances have included themed stage revues, public events, and more recently, the inclusion of burlesque performers from Burning Roses Burlesque. Anita also performs as her drag king alter ego, King Cocktail.

As a special holiday perk, Jasper Forest of Ludlow, Vt., will offer their Oxygen Bar experience for patrons. This fast-growing opportunity is safe and provided by business owner Jennifer Esposito, who travels with the Oxygen Bar to corporate, sports, health, festivals, weddings, and other private events and public venues. The air we breathe daily consists of 21% oxygen and 78% nitrogen, coupled with other gasses and pollutants from car and industrial ex-

haust. Inhaling a dose of up to 95% oxygen (different from medical oxygen) for only 10 minutes can provide relaxation, clarity, concentration, energy, and decreased stress. Athletes have long known the benefits of oxygen therapy, and bars are beginning to offer this option on premises. Credit cards, cash, and Venmo are accepted.

Bellows Falls Pride, [www.bellowsfallspride.com](http://www.bellowsfallspride.com), is a new program of the nonprofit Rockingham Arts and Museum Project, founded in 1997. For wheelchair accessibility and other questions, contact the Moose Lodge at 802-463-4054, who will also have food available for purchase. Visit Jasper Forest at [www.jasperforest.com](http://www.jasperforest.com).

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Preview 5-5:30pm  
**The Odd Fellows Hall - Belmont**  
Vintage and New Items - Decorated Wreaths - Wine and Cheese Raffish  
Hors d'oeuvres and Refreshments served  
visit [www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org](http://www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org) for more info.

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