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# THE **FREE** Vermont Journal

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## Family and community are top priority for Singleton's

BY PAULA BENSON

The Vermont Journal

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – Dan and Alison Singleton were in line to become the third generation of owners to run Singleton's General Store on Main Street in Proctorsville, to take effect on Aug. 1. The young couple, parents of three small boys, were ready to put down roots and take on the day-to-day responsibilities of running the infamous store, a Vermont destination known for selling "whiskey, guns, and ammo" since it opened in its current location in 1978.

But, before the final paperwork was signed on Monday, July 10, Dan and Alison found themselves watching the waters of the Black River rise, as a raging storm hit Proctorsville and surrounding towns, causing major flooding and damage throughout the region.

As water started spilling over the riverbanks, it filled the picnic area first, and they

moved the tables to higher ground. Then the store's parking lot started flooding, then the basement. They tried to save as much from the lower shelves as possible, but the water just kept coming, and Dan and Alison realized they had to get their staff, and themselves, out.

Alison recalled that Dan was shuttling employees home through the rapidly flooding streets, as she sat in disbelief on the basement steps thinking, "What is happening?" She watched helplessly as all the items stored there – store merchandise, supplies, and backstock, but also so many personal and family memories – were destroyed.

The basement flooded to the ceiling, and when the force of the water smashed all the windows, Alison burst into tears.

By that evening, Dan, Alison, their three children, and Smokey, a burly, grey bulldog and the store's honorary mascot, were left stranded

at the store. "We were on our own little island," Alison said.

A neighbor kindly offered the family a place to stay, and they waded through knee-deep water carrying the kids and Smokey to shelter.

Both Alison and Dan are Vermont natives. Alison grew up in Poultney. Dan grew up in Proctorsville, and worked at Singleton's as a teen, but left for California after graduation. He said when he was a kid, he had no aspirations to run Singleton's. But when Dan came back to the area nine years ago, he met Alison, and that changed.

With the determination and spirit of true Vermonters, Alison and Dan returned to Singleton's the following morning, and got right to work. Soon, they were making bacon, egg, and cheese sandwiches in the parking lot, feeding everyone who showed up. Alison put out free store merchandise which could

no longer be sold, but with a wash or two could be worn. "I didn't want to throw it all away," she explained. "There was so much, and it was still good!"

The fire department had to shut down the store when it was discovered that the gas tank spilled when the basement flooded. But once the hazard was cleared, it was all hands on deck as employees, friends, family, and neighbors pitched in to clean up.

Alison described the days following the flood as "a blur," and said they just kept moving forward, dealing with things as they came up. "I think we were just in shock," Alison commented. "It was like a fight or flight response. You just do what needs to be done."

Being part of, and of service to the larger Okemo Valley community is important to Alison and Dan, and now that Ludlow has temporarily lost Shaw's grocery store, Alison said they're being mindful of filling the



Singleton's loyal clean-up crew.

PHOTO PROVIDED

void. They started stocking larger quantities of staple items, although Alison pointed out their store has a fraction of the storage space Shaw's has.

Singleton's will be hosting this year's Stuff-a-Truck event with the Ludlow and Proctorsville fire departments, to benefit Black River Good Neighbor Services.

Alison and Dan will continue to carry a wide variety of locally produced products, and the signature array of kitschy goods that Singleton's is known for, ranging from puzzles and classic kids' toys to hand-knit hats

and mittens, and so much more. The deli features a lunch special of the day, and Alison posts mouth-watering photos on Facebook of smoked pork belly burnt ends, or fried mac and cheese balls.

The team at Singleton's is prepping for the holidays, and looking forward to serving locals and out-of-towners during the winter ski season. The store has been a vital part of the community since it opened, and Alison and Dan feel strongly that the tradition of creating a warm, friendly, and welcoming atmosphere lives on.

## Chester reviews proposed zoning bylaws

BY NICK GIBERTI

The Vermont Journal

CHESTER, Vt. – The Chester Selectboard meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 15, was preceded by a hearing on proposed amendments to the town's Unified Development Bylaws, often referred to as "zoning modernization." This zoning reform is being done in response to housing shortages, which are a problem across the state, as well as to the HOME Act, passed by the legislature during the 2023 state legislative session. The Chester Planning Commission has been working on updating Chester's zoning bylaws since early 2022, and brought before the selectboard a number of changes intending to create opportunities for increased housing density, and more affordable housing.

"Single-family zoning on one-acre lots is sort of a thing of the past," said Planning Commission Chair Hugh Quinn. "Lot sizes are shrinking, setbacks are shrinking, lot coverage is going up, and we're basically adding more uses to each zone," Quinn continued, noting that many added uses are conditional uses, which require a hearing before and approval from the development review board. All zoning districts which allow residential use now allow the construction of multi-unit housing. The full extent of the proposed by-law amendments, as well as other information about the zoning changes and process, can be found at [marcv.town-of-chester-unif.com](http://marcv.town-of-chester-unif.com).

The selectboard was

broadly receptive to the changes, taking issue with several minor details related to specific cases – such as a zone border bisecting the town's gravel pit – which necessitated further consideration. As such, the board will hold another hearing in the future, once the planning commission has been given an opportunity to address the board's concerns.

The board then once again turned to discussing short-term rentals (STRs) in Chester. Town planner and zoning administrator Preston Bristow updated the board on the most recent STR data, saying that 49 of 68 identified STRs had fulfilled their registration requirements, netting \$12,000 in registration fees. Six STRs had been sent both a first and second letter notifying them of the registration requirement, and failed to respond in the allotted time frame, putting them in violation. Of the 49 which had registered, 14 – or 29% – are hosted STRs in which the owner or a caretaker is on-site while renters are present. The remaining 71% are unhosted.

Discussion then focused on the issues surrounding STR regulation. "The trouble I see with a conditional use is that in six weeks anybody can have a short-term rental," said board member Peter Hudkins. "So I lean more toward you're going to have to own the property for two years."

"I think that...is a great idea," replied Chair Arne Jonynas, "but I would also tack on a conditional use on it, so that the neighbors can hear what's going on...and also maybe there's a list of

conditions...that have to be addressed."

Several other possibilities were raised by members of the board, including conditional use in some districts and not others, and limitations on the percentage of dwellings which can be STRs in some zones. There has been continued concern about Chester's historic Stone Village becoming overrun with STRs due to its prime location, unique architecture, and historical significance.

The board stressed that these requirements would not be imposed upon STRs that are already operational and registered, but only to those newly set up after the end of the six-month STR moratorium, which began at the end of October.

Police Chief Thomas Williams was on hand to discuss with the board the proposed new false alarm policy, which would impose fines for repeat false, automated fire or security alarms. Williams told the board that 15-20% of such alarms are repeat alarms, and six locations have had four or more repeat alarms. These alarms result in fire trucks and/or police and ambulance personnel being deployed to the location of the alarm, and cost Chester's taxpayers money. Williams said that often these homes are unoccupied for much of the year, and that despite repeat attempts by the police department to get owners to fix their alarms, they problem

See **ZONING** on Page 2

## Customer Appreciation Weekend in Chester

CHESTER, Vt. – Started as a thank you to so many who supported these small businesses during the pandemic, the third annual Customer Appreciation Weekend will be in full swing in Chester on Dec. 2 and 3.

This year the support of the local community after the flood on July 10 has been heartwarming for each of us. We would not be here without you, so it is our turn to say thank you once again. Come to Chester to shop and explore all of the venues available on our historic green.

Common Street Market is showcasing 12 small businesses with their lo-

cally made crafts, breads and pastries, cheese, meats, woodworking, macrame jewelry, fudge, photography, fiber art, slate work, and vintage collectibles. And we have it on good authority that The Grinch will be at the market from

12-4 p.m. on Saturday. Bring the kiddos by for some fun.

The Annex is home to three specialty shops – Kit Kats Embroidery, The Maple Room, and Chester Candy. Fischer Arts is located at the corner of Common Street and School Street, and Songbird Wellness around the corner on School Street has a wonderful array of amazing items in their new apothecary. Come to Sage

Jewelry & Gifts located at 78 The Common and fill out your wish list. All of these businesses will be offering promotions and discounts on many items.

Sharon's on the Common is selling remaining items of The Vermont Strong 2.0 gear at half price. It is time to retire the logo. Thank you to everyone who has supported this effort to help local small businesses recover from the flood.

Your continued year round support is the backbone of the small business community in Chester.

Thank you for shopping local during this wonderful time of the year. Hope to see you this coming weekend. Enjoy the holidays!

## Londonderry discusses short-term rentals

BY SHAWN TAE WEBB

The Vermont Journal

LONDONDERRY, Vt. – At their Nov. 20 meeting, the Londonderry Selectboard discussed their short-term rental (STR) ordinance and acknowledged the road and bridge projects to repair the flood damages have mostly been completed.

Board member Melissa Brown received many emails from people who were both for and against STRs, as well as a lot of informative and educational pieces that are "insightful" but a little overwhelming. "There's a lot of information out there," she said. Brown noted that each

community is unique in its needs – "there is no one size fits all" – while also assuring the attendees of the meeting that they are getting closer to finalizing the ordinance language. The board wants to make sure the verbiage is clear, noting that there was a lot of language that could make it more difficult to understand, but also makes the ordinance more definitive.

Bill Sinsigalli, local STR owner, offered that Montpelier's language is quite simple, and if the intent was to be clearer, theirs would be a good example. However, they only allow homesteads to be used for STRs.

Brown reassured, "Our mountain town has a long rich history of having second

homes," with families who have been here a long time. The board has no intention of eliminating or limiting STRs, or eliminating second homes from being STRs. Board Chair Tom Cavanagh added that the place to define an STR is in the zoning bylaws, noting they were only discussing the ordinance language. Brown stated they are most curious about how many STRs they have, and where they are located.

Another attendee liked Killington's ordinance, saying it is easy to read and understand. He believed people would be more likely to voluntarily comply with a simplified registry.

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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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[editor@vermontjournal.com](mailto:editor@vermontjournal.com)

# Chester-Andover Senior Christmas Dinner

**CHESTER, Vt.** – The Chester-Andover Senior Christmas Dinner will be held Dec. 9, at 12 p.m., at Green Mountain Union High School. This free meal and fun Christmas gathering is for all seniors in Chester and Andover. The menu includes turkey, mashed potatoes, squash, stuffing, gravy, rolls, and cranberry sauce. Dessert is homemade pie from the Andover Church.

There will also be take-out meals available. If you would like a take-out meal to pick up or to be delivered, call Pat Budnick at 802-376-6643, or the town hall at 802-875-2173.

This dinner has been held annually for almost 50 years (We did two years of delivered take out meals because of Covid in Collaboration with “Everyone Eats” in Chester). It was

started by a small group of community members concerned about the seniors having a proper Christmas meal and camaraderie. It has been held at the Congregational Church, the Chester-Andover Elementary School, and at the Green Mountain Union High School.

It has been held as a thank you to all our town's seniors for all they have done during their years in Chester-Andover. Many area agencies and individuals have always come forward with support by paying for the meals, helping with cooking, serving and delivering meals, as well as providing entertainment and small gifts. This meal and gathering has always been free for the seniors because of this support.

We would like to keep

this meal and event free, but we need folks to pitch in.

If you would like to make a donation, you can drop it off at the Motel in the Meadow, or mail it to 936 Vermont Route 11W, Chester, VT 05143. Make checks out to Pat Budnick, and in the memo line write “For the Chester-Andover Senior Dinner.” Thank you.

# Chester Community Garden raffle

**CHESTER, Vt.** – The Chester Community Greenhouse and Gardens is holding a raffle for two baskets of goodies; each basket is valued at \$300. The baskets are on display in The Annex on the Commons in Chester Village, and tickets can be purchased at Kit Kat Embroidery, or send an email to chestergreenhouse@gmail.com, call

802-289-0445 or 802-875-8194, or contact anyone associated with the community garden.

The drawing will be on Dec. 9, at 3:30 p.m., at the craft fair at First Universalist Parish of Chester, 211 North Street, Route 103, in the historic Stone Village. The community gardens were installed this year and the first growing season was a big success, with many vegetables donated to

the Chester Andover Family Center, as well as many pick-your-flowers for members and friends. Despite the rainy weather, the first season plots were quite productive. There are still garden plots available for the 2024 season. Proceeds from the raffle will go toward purchasing a much needed tool shed. For more information, go to [www.chestercommunitygreenhouseandgardens.org/raffle-2023](http://www.chestercommunitygreenhouseandgardens.org/raffle-2023).

# FML Community Appreciation Open House

**LUDLOW, Vt.** – Friends of the Fletcher Memorial Library welcomes everyone to the second annual Community Appreciation Open House on Wednesday, Dec. 6, from 3:30-6 p.m. Stop by Fletcher Memorial Library for refreshments, holiday mu-

sic, and a chance to enjoy the library with your friends and neighbors. Santa will join us at 4:30 p.m. to gift each child a book. Fletcher Memorial Library is located at 88 Main Street in Ludlow. Please call 802-228-8921 if you have questions.

# ZONING

From Page 1

goes unaddressed, and the false alarms continue. The new policy would also require a \$25 registration fee when registering alarm systems with the Chester Police Department. The

hope is that the false alarm policy would result in less wasted taxpayer money, and incentivize property owners to address faulty alarms in a timely manner.

The Chester Selectboard will meet next on Wednesday, Dec. 6, at 6:30 p.m., at the Chester Town Hall.

# STR

From Page 1

There was some talk between Sinsigalli and the board about the number of STRs one person could own and other regulations. Brown noted that there are some possible nuances, and one bad night could cause concern among the community.

Steve Ankuda, attorney for Springfield, was in attendance with STR owner

Ben Sargent sitting next to him. He cautioned the town not to confuse the ordinance with zoning bylaws. “This ordinance that you’ve come together with is a mix up of zoning and nuisance law, and it doesn’t fit,” he told the board, using as an example the fact that, in the ordinance, an STR owner needs a conditional use permit, but the ordinance does not say what the conditions are. Cavanagh confirmed they are just working out the details of their draft. Ankuda continued, saying, “You’ve got Ben here who’s going to go out of business” with some of the regulations the town may put into place with the current ordinance. Ankuda suggested the board collect all the data they can, and then see what the problems are and regulate from there.

The board moved on to their attorney’s recommendations, line by line, making adjustments, deletions, and clarifications to the language. Prouty then noted that the planning commission hadn’t tackled the STR zoning bylaws too deeply because they knew the selectboard was working on the ordinance. The bylaws would come later.

The board later appointed Sinsigalli to fill the vacancy for the Londonderry Housing Commission. Sinsigalli thanked the board, saying he’s in the process of becoming a full time resident and cares for the town. He apologized for being argumentative at times, but said it was with good intentions and respect for the town. The board thanked him for serving.

The Londonderry Selectboard meets the first and third Monday of the month.

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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 Bullfighter’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 high-light 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

802-374-0119  
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 Chipendale 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)**

Sponsored by Bellows Falls, Vt., Elks Lodge #1619  
 Chairman Smokey Aumand

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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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SPRINGFIELD FAMILY EYECARE

# obituaries

## Gary Balch, 1951-2023

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – With great sadness we share the passing of Gary Balch, at the age of 72, on Nov. 19, 2023, at Dartmouth Medical Center, with his family by his side. He leaves his wife Karen, his daughter Christine, son Jason, granddaughters Claire and Lucy, and his sister Carol (Balch) Cole.

Gary was born Aug. 28, 1951, in Springfield, to Guy and Irene (Booth) Balch. Raised in Springfield, he graduated from Springfield High School in 1969. Gary and Karen (Harvey) were married in 1971, and recently celebrated 52 years of a loving marriage. They welcomed daughter Christine and son Jason, both bringing immense pride to him. Granddaughters Claire and Lucy were a joyful blessing to him as he shared his wisdom, laughter, and love with them.

Gary had a wealth of life experiences, making new friends wherever he went and renewing old acquaintances, both in his working life and the days of hunting, fishing, casino visits, and trips to Lake George, a favorite place for car shows.

Gary worked at Lovejoy Tool Company for many years, both in machining and maintenance of the plant. The former Springfield Health and Rehab Center was another working experience, again making new friends and maintaining the facility. Gary was an accomplished carpenter. He worked for many years honing his skills at Vermont Homecraft, and proceeded to build his own home for



**Gary Balch, 1951-2023.**  
PHOTO PROVIDED

his family.

Gary is survived by his wife Karen, daughter Christine Balch, son Jason Balch and partner Diana, and granddaughters – the joy of his life – Claire and Lucy Palmer, sister Carol Cole and special Aunt Joanne Allen, stepsister Patricia (Andy) Coutermarsh, stepbrother Robert (Deb) Brickley, and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents Guy and Irene Balch; his grandparents George and Amy Balch, and John and Isabel Booth; his beloved brother Charles “Chuck” Balch; stepmother Lydia Balch; and stepbrother Larry Brickley, in addition to numerous uncles and aunts.

Friends are invited to gather at Davis Memorial Chapel for sharing of memories on Dec. 2, from 5-7 p.m. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date, to be announced.

Memorial donations in his honor may be made to a cause that is special to you.

Davis Memorial Chapel, Springfield, Vt., has been entrusted with arrangements.

## Alexandria Bosna, 1939-2023

WINHALL, Vt. – Alexandria (aka Sandra, Sandy) Bosna of Winhall, Vt., died Nov. 21, 2023, at Grace Cottage Hospital in Townshend, Vt. She was born in North Bergen Township, N.J., on July 10, 1939, to Ernest and Margaret Bosna.

Following high school graduation, Sandy enrolled at Glassboro State College in New Jersey and graduated with a bachelor's degree in education. Following a year or two at public school teaching, she joined her parents, who were living in Italy at the time, and taught at a U.S. military base. While there, she enjoyed connecting with her Italian family roots.

On her return to the United States, she joined the staff of the New Jersey Department of Aging Services and continued that career until retirement in 2002.

Sandra and life partner George Rosenthal met in 1975, and made Winhall their second home in 1999. Here they spent many years making friends, supporting the community as volun-



**Alexandria Bosna, 1939-2023.**  
PHOTO PROVIDED

teers, and exploring Vermont until George's passing on March 14, 2018.

Sandy was also predeceased by her parents. Survivors include her sister Rose Marie Cassell; nephews Jeffrey, Clay, and Thomas Cassell; niece Laura Strueli; and several cousins.

A Mass dedicated to her will be held at the Chapel of the Snows on Stratton Mountain on Dec. 10, at 12:30 p.m. Burial in Winhall and a Celebration of Life will be held in spring 2024, when family and friends can offer remarks. Details will be shared in this newspaper.

## Thomas Gramling Sr., 1930-2023



SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – On Nov. 8, our wonderful father and grandfather surrendered his battle with Lewy body dementia that robbed him of the use of his strong body and mind. He is at peace now.

He was born Nov. 21, 1930, the seventh of 10 children born to Elisabeth (Kruse) and Julius Gramling, graduating from Woodstock High School in 1949.

He joined the Air Force in 1950, serving as a radar operator in Alaska and California. In 1954, he left the service and married Lucille M. Crandall. They made a life together that lasted nearly 69 years. He worked 20 years at Fellows Gear Shaper and remodeled houses in his spare time, including the house in Amsden where he and Lucille raised their children. They owned and operated the Amsden General Store in the early 1970s, before he retired and moved to Patton, Maine, where he literally “bought the farm” – a dairy farm. They returned to Vermont years later, and he worked for Savelberg Construction while designing and building a home in Amsden, later selling it and moving to Springfield. He was a quiet man – a man of few words – but he enjoyed a good argument, often taking the opposite side in a conversation just to amuse himself. He loved the old



**Thomas Gramling Sr., 1930-2023.**  
PHOTO PROVIDED

country songs, teaching himself to play the guitar as to sing along. He immersed himself in any project, especially those that fed his creativity and passions.

Tom is predeceased by his wife Lucille; son Thomas Gramling Jr.; and eight siblings Eleanor, Eddie, Lawrence, Gerard, Veronica, Eugene, Bernadette, and Richard.

He is survived by his daughters Dawn (Robert) Crary and Phalia (Verne) McMoarn, son Shane (Regina) Gramling, and his brother Paul. He is also survived by 16 grandchildren and 26 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at the Calvary Baptist Church in Springfield, Vt., on Dec. 9, at 10 a.m.

Charitable donations may be directed to Calvary Baptist Church or an organization of one's choice.

Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield is assisting the family with the arrangements.

## Janet Gomez, 1954-2023

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Janet Gomez, 69, died on Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023, at Vernon Green Homes in Vernon, Vt. She was born July 8, 1954, in Springfield, Vt., the daughter of Joaquin and Jennie (Gordon) Gomez. She attended schools in Springfield, Vt.

Janet worked in packaging at Simon Pearce in Windsor, Vt. She also volunteered in the area for many years through programs with HCRS.

She lived in Springfield and Cavendish, Vt., and in Hinsdale, N.H., before moving to Vernon Green.

Janet loved cats, dogs, and children.

She is survived by one sister Sheila Stanton, two

brothers Wayne Gomez and Bryan Gomez, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

She was predeceased by her parents Joaquin and Jennie, sister Jacqueline Gilman, and brother Richard Gomez.

Calling hours were held on Tuesday, Nov. 28, at the Davis Memorial Chapel in Springfield, Vt., from 1-2 p.m., with funeral service at 2 p.m. Reverend Malcolm Fowler officiated.

Burial followed in the Oakland Cemetery in Springfield, Vt.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Springfield Humane Society, 401 Skitchewaug Trail, Springfield, VT 05156.

## Anna Spaulding, 1936-2023

PROCTORSVILLE, Vt. – Anna Margareta Spaulding of Proctorsville passed away suddenly at Dartmouth Hospital on Nov. 24, 2023. She was born in Roxheim, Germany on Feb. 16, 1936, one of 10 children born to Franz Joseph and Mariea Hildegard Bayer. She was a member of the American Legion and VFW Auxiliaries.

She worked in various factories in Germany until she met her husband Allen Joseph Spaulding when he served in the Army. They were married in Germany on Dec. 17, 1960. She returned with Allen to live in Proctorsville in 1961. There they raised their three children.

Anna enjoyed playing bingo, bowling, yard sales, family events, and Adult Day.

She is survived by Richard and his wife Christine, Patrick, Arlene Spaulding, and one sister. She is also survived by her four grandchildren, and one-great-grandchild. She is predeceased by her parents, husband, three sisters, five brothers, and one



**Anna Spaulding, 1936-2023.**  
PHOTO PROVIDED

grandchild.

A graveside service will be held on Thursday, Nov. 30, at 2 p.m., at the Hillcrest Cemetery in Proctorsville, Vt.

In lieu of flowers, please contribute to Alzheimer's Research in her memory.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Davis Memorial Chapel, Springfield, Vt.

## Florence Storey, 1933-2023

ESSEX JUNCTION, Vt. – Florence “Fluff” Lois Yates Storey, 90, formerly of Brattleboro, Vt., and currently of Mansfield Place in Essex Junction, Vt., died on Nov. 20, 2023, in Essex Junction, Vt., after a lingering illness.

Fluff was born on July 13, 1933, in Winthrop, Mass., to Margaret (Bordeaux) and Donald Earl Yates. She attended elementary school in Bellows Falls, Vt., and graduated from Bellows Falls High School in 1951. She graduated from Castleton State Teacher's College in 1955.

Fluff married Rodney Lee Storey, whom she met at Castleton, in her senior year of college in 1954. Their daughter Sue Carol Storey was born in Portsmouth, Va., in 1956, where they were spending Rodney's last year in the Navy.

After living in Virginia and Williamstown, Vt., in the late 50s, Fluff and Rod moved to Brattleboro in 1960, where they both had teaching careers. She achieved her master's degree in teaching from the University of Massachusetts, and a second master's degree with combined graduate studies from the University of Vermont, Keene State, and Norwich University. Fluff taught for 35 of



**Florence Storey, 1933-2023.**  
PHOTO PROVIDED

her 38 years at the Academy School in West Brattleboro, retiring in 1995.

Fluff's daughter Sue, Sue's husband Tom Broido, her beloved granddaughters Halle Broido and Galen Broido, and Galen's partner Giacomo Zilli survive her. She is also survived by two brothers Fred Yates and Ross Yates. She was predeceased by her husband Rod in 1988, and her siblings Pauline Yates Brilliant and Donald Yates.

Fluff wanted her lifelong friends to know how much they meant to her, and how much they all enriched her life.

There will be no visiting hours at Fluff's request, and no formal service. Please visit [www.awrfh.com](http://www.awrfh.com) to read Fluff's full obituary and share your memories.

## William Nelson service postponed

SPRINGFIELD, Vt. – Due to illness, William Nelson's memorial service is postponed until further notice.

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**OBITUARIES:** A basic 200-word obituary is \$75, and \$0.50 per word thereafter. A black and white photo is an additional \$10. Email to [editor@vermontjournal.com](mailto:editor@vermontjournal.com) by Monday at 12 p.m.

**CHURCH SERVICES:** We run Church Services on an alternating schedule. Subject to space. All services are posted online at [www.VermontJournal.com](http://www.VermontJournal.com).

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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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

### SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT SPRINGFIELD, VERMONT



#### WE ARE CURRENTLY HIRING MUTIPLE CUSTODIAL POSITIONS

APPLY ON SCHOOLS PRING OR CONTACT  
MARTHA TARBELL, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
802-885-5120 [mtarbell@ssdvt.org](mailto:mtarbell@ssdvt.org)

### 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=WmntYkRH-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@graftonvt.org](mailto:townadmin@graftonvt.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

## 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 HIRE

**SPRINGFIELD, Vt.** - Snow removal, salting, sanding, brush removal, tree removal, and various tractor needs. Need a trench dug? I've got a backhoe. 603-443-7009.

## GUNS WANTED

**REGION** - Guns wanted. Hand-guns, rifles, or shotguns. Top prices paid. Call Roy at 802-775-2859 or 802-236-7213.

## HELP WANTED

Dental Assistant - Chester, VT - full time or part time. Duties include welcoming patients and accurately recording dental and

medical records, chairside assisting during dental procedures, taking accurate radiographs as directed, keeping work areas clean and well stocked, and performing instrument sterilization. Experience is preferred but will train the right candidate. We offer a competitive salary and benefits commensurate with experience and fun working environment. Therapy dogs on site so must be comfortable with canine companions. Please send cover letter and resume to info@drchristopherfauver.com.

**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: kckingtonbrngs@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

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

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

### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging  
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 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

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12 |    |    |    | 13 |    |    |    | 14 |    |    |
| 15 |    |    | 16 |    |    |    |    | 17 |    |    |
|    |    | 18 |    |    | 19 |    | 20 |    |    |    |
| 21 | 22 |    |    | 23 |    | 24 |    |    |    |    |
| 25 |    |    | 26 |    | 27 |    | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| 32 |    |    | 33 |    | 34 |    | 35 |    | 36 |    |
| 37 |    |    |    | 38 |    | 39 |    | 40 |    | 41 |
|    |    |    | 42 |    | 43 |    | 44 |    | 45 |    |
| 46 | 47 | 48 |    |    | 49 |    | 50 |    |    |    |
| 51 |    |    |    | 52 |    | 53 |    |    | 54 | 55 |
| 56 |    |    |    | 57 |    |    |    |    | 58 |    |
| 59 |    |    |    | 60 |    |    |    |    | 61 |    |

- 56 Greek mountain
- 57 Canned milk
- 58 Blackbird
- 59 Favorites
- 60 PC programs
- 61 Ewe's mate
- 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 Texter'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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www.vermontjournal.com

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### Specials of the Week

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Diesel  
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Fully Loaded  
Cruise Control  
4x4

**2016 Kia Sedona EX**  
7 Passenger  
Auto  
4 Cylinder  
Fully Loaded

**2016 Jeep Patriot Sport**  
Cruise Control  
Power Windows  
Auto  
4x4

**2016 Honda HRV**  
AWD  
Cruise Control  
Sunroof  
Fully Loaded

**2015 Honda CRV EX-L**  
AWD  
Auto  
Heated Seats  
Bluetooth

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

### Art Crafts Gifts

**GALLERY AT THE VAULT**  
Vermont State Craft Center  
Art Crafts Gifts & Workshops  
68 Main St., Springfield 802-885-7111  
**OPEN Wed. to Sat. 11-5 & Fri. til 7**  
**Holiday Open House Dec. 2 11-5**  
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 lapetus 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

**HAMMER FOR HIRE LLC**  
"Not just for bangin' nails."  
We handle a variety of projects, from home repairs, restorations on up to full renovations, and new construction too. Our clients can expect professionalism, proficiency, customer care, and quality. Call or email today at 802-376-3275 edwin.mortensen@gmail.com. Follow us on Instagram @nedthehammer (11/20/24 - 52)

**PETER JORDAN CONSTRUCTION**  
Over 25 years of experience in all phases of construction. Framing, finish carpentry, custom showers and tile work, hardwood flooring, decks, and siding. Fully insured and registered with the State of Vermont. Lead Paint Certified. Located in Proctorsville. 802-558-5267. (02/14/24 - 13)

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Kitchens, Additions, and Remodels. Finish Carpentry and Cabinet Work. Property Maintenance. Fully Insured, Free Estimates.  
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www.newenglandhomebuildingandremodel.com (11/20/24 - 52)

### Chiropractor

**FOUR SEASONS CHIROPRACTIC, PC**  
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)

### Masonry

**DRC STONE DESIGN**  
Specializing in all Stone Masonry Applications including veneer, walls, patios, walkways. Fully insured. Free estimates. 32 years experience. Contact Dan Field at 802-384-0122 or stoneart49@gmail.com or visit drcstonedesign.com. (02/21/24 - 13)

### Okemo Valley TV

**Ways to Watch Local Programming**  
**On TV:** Comcast 1076 & 1086 | VTel 166 & 167  
**Online:** Go to okemovalley.tv/watch to watch Live TV or on video on demand  
**You Tube:** 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** Answer

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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 | A | M | S | O | F | A | S |   |
| A | S | A | P | P | O | S | E | L | E | T |   |
| R | E | N | A | L | P | E | S | T | O | A |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| I | M | P | A | L | A | S | L | V | 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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- Asa Cheffetz
- Robert Todd
- Eric Sloane
- Frank McCarthy
- Gerald Lubeck
- Luigi Lucioni
- Harry Shokler
- and others!

**HOURS:**  
Wednesday - Friday: 10:00 to 4:00 • Saturday: 9:00 to 12:00  
197 Elm Street • Chester, Vermont 05143  
802.875.3295

## "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).

## Home Grown Holidays

ORDER NOW by phone or online

### Homemade Pies from scratch

APPLE • 4BERRY • PEACH • BLUEBERRY • PUMPKIN • PECAN  
PUMPKIN CHEESECAKE • gluten free CHOCOLATE TORTE

### FRESH TURKEYS • PRODUCE • CHEESES

Our own pressed sweet cider, amazing craft beers and a great wine selection!

**VT grown trees**  
**Handmade Wreaths & Roping**

**Allen Bros FARM**

**Santa Claus is coming to our Garden Center!**  
**Saturday Dec. 2**

6023 US Route 5 • Westminster, VT  
**(802) 722-3395 • allenbrothersfarms.com**

The Mount Holly Community Historical Museum

## Festival of Lights

Sunday, December 3rd  
Live Auction 5-7pm  
Preview 5-5:30pm

**The Odd Fellows Hall - Belmont**

Vintage and New Items - Decorated Wreaths - Wine and Cheese Raffle

Hors d'oeuvres and Refreshments served  
visit [www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org](http://www.mounthollyvtmuseum.org) for more info.

### A Seraphic Fire Christmas

December 2, 2023 at 7:00 pm  
Brick Meeting House | Grafton, VT

Create holiday memories at this concert by one of the world's leading vocal ensembles!

Tickets: \$35  
Scan to reserve or visit [SeraphicFire.org](http://SeraphicFire.org)

**SERAPHIC FIRE**  
FLORIAN'S GRAMMY-NOMINATED VOCAL ENSEMBLE

**BRICK MEETING HOUSE**

**GREAT NORTHERN LIQUIDATION**

802-885-6464 ~ Like us on Facebook  
**Springfield Shopping Plaza**

WE BUY AND SELL:  
Furniture, Home Decor, Collectibles, Rugs, Housewares, Appliances, Electronics, Tools, more!

Springfield Garden Club PRESENTS

## Christmas Holidays Pop-Up Market

CHRISTMAS WREATHS AND OTHER HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

DECEMBER 1-2 | 10 AM - 5 PM

COME VISIT US AT THE FORMER LOCATION OF YOUNG'S PROPANE IN THE PLAZA